

U.S. cuts ties with Panama

PANAMA CITY (R) — A new provisional president was sworn in Friday as the United States announced it was cutting ties with Panama. Francisco Rodriguez took the oath of office as President George Bush declared in Washington that diplomatic relations would not be restored until military leader Manuel Antonio Noriega remained in power. The United States has been trying to oust Noriega since prosecutors in Florida charged him with drug trafficking 18 months ago. "The United States will not recognize any government installed by General Noriega. Our ambassador will not return and we will not have any diplomatic contact with the Noriega regime," Bush said in a statement. Bush said the United States would also take other steps, "including the tightening of measures to deprive the illegal regime of funds that belong to the Panamanian people... and to counter the threat posed by General Noriega's support for drug trafficking and other forms of subversion." (See page 8).

Jordan Times

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Interest rates revised

AMMAN (Petra) — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) issued a memorandum Friday to banks and financial companies adjusting interest rates on loans to Jordanian exporters. Interest rates to exporters to countries with whom Jordan has commercial ties thereby become eight per cent while to other countries it would be six per cent. The memorandum balanced between these rates, the rates of interest and commissions which the banks and financial markets get for credit facilities. Furthermore, the CBJ decided to buy the export revenues in foreign currency — either those coming through the banking system or through agreements taken care of by banks and financial companies — at the free rate prevailing in the markets. This measure will provide backing to the export sector in Jordan, provide it with a competitive ability in external markets and help open new markets.

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King approves resignations and appointments

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has accepted the resignation of three Cabinet ministers and approved the Cabinet's decision to appoint Radi Abdul Karim Al Khus as director general of the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation.

The King also approved a Cabinet decision to appoint two new governors at the Interior Ministry and two new ambassadors at the Foreign Ministry.

The King received Taher Al Masri, Abdullah Nsoor and Shafiq Zaidi Thursday, and wished them success in their endeavours to serve their country through the legislative authority. The three ministers resigned

their posts to seek seats in the coming parliament. The constitution stipulates that active government officials cannot run as candidates in national elections and calls for their resignation from their office at least 65 days before election day. Election day has been set for Nov. 8, 1989 and nominations for candidates will be accepted between Oct. 14 and 16.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and Royal Court Chief Mudar Badran.

The Prime Minister earlier accepted the three Cabinet ministers' resignation which took effect Friday.

No replacements have been announced today but unofficial sources indicated that the post of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Economic Affairs will not be filled before the elections.

New appointments
A Royal Decree has been issued approving the appointment of Khus as director general of the Jordan Radio and Television of Sept. 1, 1989.



Gonzalez seeks new mandate

MADRID (Agencies) — Socialist Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez called an early election Friday to give him more control over Spain's booming economy.

Gonzalez, 47, is widely favoured to win a third successive term against an opposition in disarray.

He told a press conference the poll would be held on Oct. 29, eight months before his four-year term was due to end.

He said Spain needed a strong government to rein in a spectacular consumer boom threatening to derail the economy and to take Spain through the challenge of the European single market in 1992.

The Socialist leader, who was swept into office seven years ago with a landslide, said he was calling elections "to seek a new mandate to meet the important challenges" of Spain's participation in the European market.

European Community nations are seeking to drop all internal trade barriers by the end of 1992.

"What we seek is sustained economic growth to continue job creation, our prime objective," Gonzalez told reporters.

Gonzalez has been riding a four-year economic boom that is faced with both rising inflation and a widening trade deficit.

If reelected, Gonzalez is expected to take stiff measures to curtail demand and try to maintain the economy's momentum, needed to reduce the country's 17.3 per cent unemployment rate, Europe's highest.

King Juan Carlos was to sign a decree Saturday setting elections for Oct. 29.

Spain's economy is growing at an annual rate of 4.5 to 5.5 per cent and could double its 1985 gross national product by the year 2000.

But Gonzalez said consumption was growing at almost twice the pace of the economy, fueling inflation and sucking in too many imports.

Arafat has peace proposals to unveil if he attends U.N.

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat will make a major new peace proposal if he attends this month's United Nations General Assembly in New York, one of his top aides said in remarks published Friday.

"If he decides to go to New York this means he will present a new proposal that will surpass what he presented in the speech he gave in Geneva last year," Bassam Abu Sharif told Kuwait's Al Anba newspaper.

He did not elaborate or disclose the contents of Arafat's proposed speech.

The U.N. held a special session at its European headquarters in Geneva last year after the United States refused to grant Arafat a visa to address the world body in New York.

It is not clear yet if Washington would grant Arafat a visa to attend the General Assembly or if the Palestinian leader would apply for one.

In Geneva, a United Nations human rights panel condemned Israel and South Africa.

The U.N. Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities voted 15 to five with two formal abstentions to pass a resolution charging that Israel was guilty of war crimes.

It said Israel had tortured and expelled Palestinians and administered collective punishment in the occupied territories it occupies.

It said these measures violated the Fourth Geneva Convention which protects civilians in time of war.

The resolution listed other "gross violations of human rights," including deliberate killings and injuries as well as the establishment of Israeli settlements in the territories.

The resolution on South Africa, adopted without a vote, reaffirmed past statements that apartheid was a crime against humanity.

It vigorously condemned all collaboration with South Africa and any breach of the international sports boycott of the country. It also strongly condemned death sentences passed recently on 66 opponents of apartheid.

A Palestinian expelled by the Israeli army on suspicion of directing the uprising said Thursday expulsions would not weaken the revolt.

Physicist Naysir Aruri told a Vienna news conference during a U.N.-backed meeting on the Palestinian question: "Israel thinks by deporting some leaders they will weaken the intifada. But it will always find new leaders."

The U.N. Security Council Wednesday condemned the weekend expulsion of Aruri and four other Palestinians, which brought to 38 the number of Arabs expelled since the uprising began in December 1987.

"They think by doing this they will push the intifada towards extremism. But this will not happen," Aruri said.

Qadhafi abolishes armed forces after making peace with Chad

TRIPOLI (Agencies) — Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Qadhafi abolished his armed forces Friday, the 20th anniversary of his revolution.

In future Libyan soldiers, sailors and airmen will be known as "armed people," he decreed in a flamboyant gesture marking the coup which toppled Libya's pro-Western monarchy.

Only hours earlier Libya made peace with Chad.

The neighbouring states, which went to war over a disputed piece of Sahara desert along their border known as the Aouzou Strip, agreed to take their 15-year-old dispute to the International Court of Justice in the Hague for arbitration.

Qadhafi, renowned for his showmanship, decreed the creation of the "armed people" as he entertained 14 Arab and African heads of state in Tripoli at lavish anniversary celebrations.

The decree, dated Friday and published in the official newspaper Al Fajr Al Jadid (New Dawn), indicated that personnel in the new military hierarchy would remain unchanged.

Qadhafi has repeatedly promised to abolish the armed forces, saying all Libyans should bear arms.

The decree sets up a general defence committee, which takes on all the functions of the old general command staff of the armed forces, and gives the commander-in-chief the new title of secretary of the general defence committee.

The members of the committee are apparently identical to those on the old command staff, including the chiefs of each branch of the armed forces, the inspector general and the heads of intelligence, reconnaissance, operations and training.

A text of the Libya-Chad agreement published in Al Fajr Al Jadid indicates it is more favourable to Libya than was first thought.

The Libyan text said that if Chad and Libya failed to reach a bilateral political agreement within one year, the Aouzou dispute would go to the International Court and troops in the Aouzou Strip would withdraw a distance to be agreed later.

This leaves the door open for Libyan troops to stay in the disputed area until the court reaches a verdict, an outcome which Chadian President Hissene Habre previously rejected.

In the last two years Qadhafi patched up relations with Tunisia to the west in 1987 and was reconciled with Egypt to the east in May.

Libya restored relations with Chad last October but the Aouzou dispute continued to obstruct full reconciliation.

Qadhafi Friday urged others to follow his revolutionary path and declaring former U.S. President Ronald Reagan had landed "in the dustbin of history."

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Washington has given Colombia a "most wanted list" of 12 leading traffickers it wants extradited. None has been arrested, but the Colombian army said Thursday that it had uncovered a major financial operation centre of one of the men, accused Medellin cartel chieftain Jose Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha.

Also Friday, the Israeli defence ministry began evacuating from Colombia wives and children of defence ministry and military industry officials in the case of another reported involvement of Israelis with drug dealers, Israel media reported.

Israeli newspapers said Israel is concerned over threats to the families that materialised after reports surfaced that Israeli ex-commandos trained paramilitary militias for the Colombian drug barons.

An American journalist working in Colombia said police have produced a video showing at least one former Israeli army officer but ruled out any combat role.

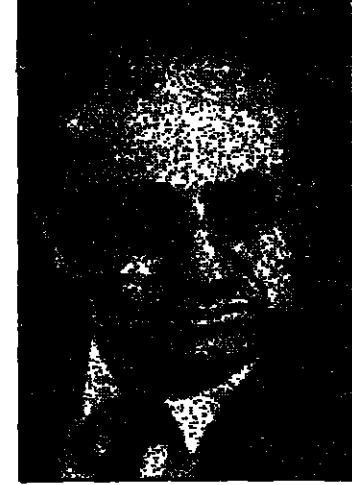


Nabulsi explains fruitful monetary action to King

AMMAN (Petra) — Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi Friday sent a cable to His Majesty King Hussein explaining the achievements attained in the financial and monetary fields in line with his directives.

"The CBJ employees and myself have the pleasure to inform you that the goals you mapped out for the CBJ for the first stage which regard to restoration of confidence in our national currency, restoration of currency stability, building national reserves, and attaining basic organisational steps in the banking system have positively crystallised and became deep-rooted," the cable said.

"We also express profound appreciation and thanks for the unstinting efforts you exerted, and the firm backing and sincere efforts you made, which significantly massed up and mobilised the support of fraternal Arab countries," it said.



"We voice our thanks to you and to every citizen who realised the blessing of stable economic security and discerned that this security is guarded by you," it concluded.

25 massacred in north-central Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (R) — Suspected pro-government groups killed 25 people in north-central Sri Lanka Thursday in retaliation for the killing of a police inspector, residents said Friday.

They said the victims were shot dead and their bodies dumped on the roadside at Poonnawala village in Medawachchya in the north-central province. Some were also burned.

Senior police and military officials at nearby Anuradhapura district denied the incident but some military sources confirmed privately that there had been a massacre. They could not give numbers.

The attack occurred a few hours after Ananda Ratnayake, officer-in-charge of Medawachchya police station, was shot and killed in his jeep by suspected rebels while on patrol near the same Poonnawala village. Residents said they suspected pro-government groups, believed to include police and servicemen, were responsible for the killing.

The massacre was reported as Buddhist and Roman Catholic leaders pleaded for an end to violence in Sri Lanka.

Earlier military sources reported 25 killings in other areas in the 24 hours ending Friday. They said 70 rebels, surrendered to security forces in Anuradhapura and Ratnapura in the Sabaragamuwa province in the past three days.

The military sources said a Buddhist monk, 16 civilians and three security men were killed in separate attacks by left-wing rebels who lost five of their men.

Ver Pelipana Sri Chandananda, chief incumbent of the Asgiriya Temple in the central Kandya, condemned the killings and asked those responsible to stop.

"Problems cannot be solved by mass murders," he said in a statement Friday.

The Catholic Bishops' Conference said all parties to the conflict should cease all violence against human life and the human and humane way of discussion, dialogue and reconciliation.

"No one has the right to destroy human life, but rather, it is the burden of duty of everyone to preserve and uphold its dignity," it said in a statement.

Most of the violence has been blamed on the People's Liberation Front, a radical left Sinhalese group accused of killing 3,000 people in its two-year campaign to overthrow the government.

But in the past ten days there have been a growing number of murders carried out by pro-government vigilantes, hunting rebels and their sympathisers after death threats to families of servicemen who did not resign their jobs.

Shelling savages Beirut; 17 killed

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Abandoned by those able to flee, the people of Beirut washed blood from streets and buildings and mourned their dead before renewed shelling shattered a brief lull early Friday.

In the dark and frightened city at least 17 people were killed overnight and Friday. Another 77 were wounded in the west and east, hospital and security sources said.

"Water, food and medicine are being rationed... only death is not rationed," said taxi driver Omar Harkous in west Beirut which suffered most casualties.

In the dawn light, families packed cars and sought to join the mass exodus that has left the city only an estimated 700,000 of its normal 1.5 million residents.

The renewed shelling across the city's sectarian divide forced many to abandon their plans.

The bombardment by the Syrians and allied militias' long-range artillery covered virtually all of the besieged 800-square-kilometre Christian enclave north of Beirut.

Army commander Michel Aoun's artillery hammered west Beirut, the Druze stronghold in the Shouf mountains southeast of the capital and the Syrians' main supply route through the Bekaa Valley in east Lebanon.

The fighting escalated Thursday after the pro-Aoun Al Diyar daily reported that a peace mission by French envoy Francois Scheer had collapsed.

Police said at least 80 shells fired from positions in the central mountains that overlook the city hit the state-owned Casino du Liban, north of Beirut, setting it on fire.

The vast casino overlooking the Mediterranean, the biggest in the Middle East, was a Beirut landmark, a symbol of the city's heyday as the region's playground before the civil war erupted in 1975.

Associated Press newsman Bahjat Jaber reported by telephone from the port of Jounieh that "hundreds of shells and rockets" were hitting the area.

"They're shelling the coast, the mountains, the towns and the road network," Jaber said. "The whole area is burning."

Scheer left Beirut Wednesday and flew to Saudi Arabia for talks with King Fahd, head of a three-member Arab League committee tasked with finding a settlement to end Lebanon's 14-year-old civil war.

The committee admitted July 28 that its mission had foundered.

Scheer apparently seeks to reactivate the Arab League effort and was expected to also visit Algeria and Morocco, the other two members of the committee.

Radios broadcast warnings through Friday as the Beirut shelling spread.

"Citizens are strongly advised to remain in shelters and take maximum precautionary measures. The mad wave of shelling is intensifying and sparing no one," the Voice of the Nation said.

Police said Aoun's gunners knocked out a radar-controlled Syrian 130-mm Howitzer nicknamed "Abu Abdo" on the seafloor in the port of Beirut, where several Syrian guns have been destroyed in recent weeks.

Abu Abdo and other 130-mm guns have been used to bombard ships carrying arms and other supplies trying to run a Syrian blockade of the Aoun-controlled enclave.

Soon after Abu Abdo was silenced, police said a freighter dashed into Jounieh with a cargo of fruit and vegetables.

A police spokesman, who cannot be named under standing regulations, the ship, the Mirca-T, had been driven back by shell-fire when it tried to make a run for Jounieh earlier Friday.

The Mirca-T was the first vessel reported to have slipped through the blockade since Tuesday, when gunners hit a Maltese-flag tanker, the Sun Shield. It was set ablaze and nine of its 11-man crew were killed.

The tanker was the eighth blockade-runner knocked out since March 16 in retaliation for Aoun's blockade of ports south of Beirut run by Syria's militia allies.

During the night, Aoun's command said its forces repulsed two probing attacks by militias along the southern and eastern flanks of the enclave.

An Aoun spokesman, who refused to be named, said Aoun's gunners destroyed a Syrian ammunition dump in pine wood near Bolonia, 25 kilometres northeast of Beirut.

A Syrian army base in an unfinished seven-storey building in the residential district of Ras Beirut took at least two direct Howitzer hits, the spokesman said.

Witnesses said about 40 shells hit the Sinn Al Fil area of east Beirut Thursday night, crashing into several floors of the Chalouhi commercial centre and nearby apartment blocks.

Heavy fighting in Ethiopia, but peace talks to go ahead

NAIROBI (R) — Ethiopian rebels said Friday that fierce fighting was raging with government troops in the northern province of Tigray, but both sides said planned peace talks would still go ahead.

"Although this latest act will by no means detract the nation from its commitment to the search for peace... armed attack can by no means be tolerated," it said.

Mengistu said the TPLF, fighting to topple his government since 1975, had Thursday morning launched an unprovoked attack centring around Wollo, Gonder and Tigray regions.

Earlier Thursday, the Ethiopian leader told parliament that his government would soon open unconditional peace talks with the TPLF.

Ethiopia and another rebel group, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF), will hold negotiations in Atlanta, Georgia, Sept. 7 to try to end a 28-year war that has racked Eritrea province, adjacent to Tigray.

Tewelde said of the latest fighting: "The Ethiopians have been preparing for an attack for some time. They have sent into Tigray about 10 divisions of about 1,300 men each and airborne units to areas near our control. What is happening now is that we are trying to stop this offensive, counter-attacking."

About 2,500 Ethiopian troops had been "put out of action" — killed, wounded or captured — in a battle Sunday north of Wollo, he added.

The council statement described the TPLF offensive, coming at a time the government was preparing to talk peace, as an "audacious act (that) stretches patience to the limit."

"Every Ethiopian genuinely committed to peace should now realise that the violent response to the peace call cannot and should not be taken lightly," it said.

The TPLF should realise that to stoke "the flame of war makes prospects for peace that much dimmer."

Mengistu launched the current peace initiative in May, a few days after crushing an attempted coup by military commanders demanding an end to the Eritrean conflict, Africa's longest war.

Mideast issues figure high in non-aligned agenda

BELGRADE (Agencies) — Conflicts in Afghanistan and the Middle East, and the crushing debt of Third World countries emerged Friday as major themes for next week's Non-Aligned Movement summit.

Non-aligned foreign ministers worked to finalise the four-day summit's agenda exactly 28 years to the day that leaders of Yugoslavia, India and Egypt and 22 other countries assembled in Belgrade to found the movement.

Yugoslav Foreign Minister Budimir Loncar, noting the movement now had 102 members, said: "The vision of its founders was no mere illusory idea. Would any utopian scheme attract two-thirds of mankind?"

Loncar and foreign ministers of Asian, African and Middle Eastern countries, speaking ahead of next Monday's summit opening, tempered upbeat statements with caution that the movement needed to modernise in order to avoid irrelevance.

As they spoke, the daunting tasks facing their movement were highlighted by a surge in fighting in Lebanon, where at least 780 people have been killed in the last five months and an Arab League peace effort is deadlocked.

Members of Middle Eastern and Asian delegations said the Lebanese conflict, the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories, the aftermath of the Iran-Iraq war and the fighting in Afghanistan would figure high at the summit.

Pakistan objected to an early draft text of a summit policy statement suggested the Soviet-backed administration of President Najibullah could be represented in a government of national unity in Afghanistan.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar planned to use the summit to revive Gulf peace

talks, but diplomats said neither Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani nor Iraqi President Saddam Hussein were expected in Belgrade.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat is arriving Sunday. Non-aligned countries recognise the state of Palestine and are expected to renew pressure on Israel to accept a Middle East peace conference.

For most countries, a dominant theme of the summit will be the \$1.320-billion foreign debt of developing nations and related problems such as a collapse in commodity prices and the grinding poverty of hundreds of millions of people.

"Growth and development are mostly stagnant or registering negative rates. The highly indebted and the least developed countries are in a dire situation," says a draft text of a summit declaration on the world economy.

The Non-Aligned Movement wants rich Western countries to reduce interest rates, write off or convert into grants the debts of very poor nations, offer new loans on easier terms and halt the drain on the limited resources of Third World states.

Despite their economic crises, many non-aligned countries say their movement has drawn sustenance from the improvement in U.S.-Soviet relations and the subsequent progress in solving conflicts in areas such as southern Africa.

Several foreign ministers said the time had arrived for the movement to cut out rhetoric and seek practical dialogue with countries not in their group. "This dialogue has become long overdue," Indian Foreign Minister Narasimha Rao said.

"We are to some extent out of step with our choices, out of step

with times that are dynamic and wait for no one," Loncar said. "We must catch up, even go ahead of the time and anticipate the changes, chances, challenges, dangers and risks it might bring."

Ministers met Friday to iron out final details for the summit conference.

The closed-door ministerial meeting, opened by Zimbabwe's Foreign Minister Nathan Shamuyarira, was to consider several applications for membership or observer status.

Nicaragua and Indonesia also put in bids to host the next non-aligned summit in 1992.

At their preparatory meeting ending Saturday, the ministers will also adopt the formal agenda for the summit and consider a report by George Iacova, foreign minister of Cyprus, on how to revamp and modernise the movement, whose international role has declined steadily in the past decade.

"We are to some extent out of step with... times that are dynamic and wait for no one," Yugoslav Foreign Minister Budimir Loncar told Friday's gathering.

"We must catch up (and) equip ourselves for the future so as to be able to influence it with the strength of our vision," he said minutes before the meeting was declared closed to the media.

The summit wants to revitalise a movement whose members, faced with a plethora of domestic woes, have muted their once-sentimental positions on international issues such as the Vietnam war or decolonisation.



The once glittering Lebanese capital

U.N. chief: Cyprus talks now 'out of question'

UNITED NATIONS (R) — U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Thursday that talks with the leaders of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities scheduled here for September were now "out of question."

"I hate to have talks for talks' sake... I want to have talks only if I know the talks will be useful and constructive," he told Reuters in an interview, adding, "that is, of course, out of the question now."

Perez de Cuellar had been due to hold a new round of meetings here in September with President George Vassiliou, head of the Greek Cypriot community, and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash on ways of reunifying their partitioned island under a federal system.

But Denktash said last week he would not negotiate on the basis of ideas that the secretary general presented to the two sides in late July.

"If those ideas are on the table... we will not go to the talks," he said in Nicosia.

Perez de Cuellar said a meeting would not be productive until matters had been clarified.

"I don't think Mr. Denktash and I at this very moment understand each other very well on what... I meant when I read to them some ideas. I think after I

discuss (matters) with him, perhaps things will be much clearer," he said.

Because an idea was also presented in writing did not mean it was a proposal, he said, describing the papers he gave the two sides as "ideas which I float for the consideration of the parties."

Asked whether his paper remained on the negotiating table, he stressed its informality, saying: "There is no table and no paper."

Vassiliou and Denktash agreed in Geneva last August to try to resolve their differences and have since held many meetings in Nicosia, often in the presence of the U.N.'s special representative, Oscar Cannillo.

They also made several trips to New York to brief Perez de Cuellar, most recently in June, when they agreed to see him again in September.

They had been due to resume their meetings in Nicosia in late July. But the atmosphere soured after about 1,000 Greek Cypriots, mostly women, stormed the U.N. buffer zone dividing the city in a demonstration marking the 15th anniversary of Turkey's intervention in northern Cyprus.

More than 100 of the demonstrators were arrested by Turkish Cypriot troops and police and most were later given brief jail sentences and fines.

Ignorance over AIDS prompts fear, loathing in Egypt

By Sara Al Gammal
Reuters

CAIRO — Om Kadri, a receptionist at a Cairo state-owned hospital, has had nothing but trouble since she helped an AIDS-infected Egyptian woman deliver her baby in June.

"Om Kadri AIDS" as she is now nicknamed, stepped in to help the mother after doctors and nurses refused to touch her for fear of contracting the fatal disease.

Many hospital workers believe Om Kadri is now contaminated with AIDS. They are afraid to use glasses she has drunk out of or to shake hands. Some even refuse to talk to her.

This is merely one of the man-versus-personal tragedies in Egypt caused by ignorance about Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

But health officials in the country feel they have come a long way in "toppling walls of silence on sex-related issues. Would you ever have heard, says one official, the word "condom" in a birth control advertisement a few years ago?

As more and more AIDS cases are reported each month, World Health Organisation (WHO) officials worry that the epidemic is moving faster than efforts to educate people.

"There is still a lack of knowledge about AIDS. People don't know enough," said Erik Ekeid, a WHO official in charge of AIDS programmes for the Alexandria-based East-Mediterranean region.

The East-Mediterranean region, comprising 21 countries from Morocco to Pakistan, reported 134 AIDS cases for 1988, up from 72 the previous year. Egypt says it has 33 cases of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) which causes the disease.

Since AIDS does not yet have a cure, Ekeid said, informing people and coaxing them to speak openly about it was the only way to curb its spread and limit unpleasant incidents.

Psychiatrist Mohammad Shaalan says Egyptians know very little about AIDS except that it is fatal. Many still link it mainly with homosexuality — a socially-spurned issue.

He criticised health officials for suggesting Egypt was free of AIDS because it was a Muslim country.

"This causes more harm than good because people think that as they are Muslims, then everything is fine and they will not get it," said Shaalan, who is researching Egyptians' knowledge of AIDS.

In a small Nile Delta town, a 58-year-old Egyptian woman contracted the AIDS virus from a blood transfusion in an Arab state has not left his home in more than 16 weeks.

The town's inhabitants have boycotted a road to his house, believing they can catch the disease if they pass through.

Fathi Sheeba Al Hand, Ministry of Health under-secretary, said that in such cases counsellors were sent to the towns and villages of AIDS victims to explain how it is transmitted.

"AIDS is a priority as far as the ministry is concerned. We are doing all we can to educate people," he said.

Imported blood is thoroughly screened. Only disposable syringes are used. Foreigners spending more than a month in Egypt are now required to be tested, medical sources say. Egypt has deported 57 foreigners tested positive.

But WHO officials say it is erroneous for states in the Middle East to assume that AIDS is only an imported disease.

Egyptian health officials stress that Egypt's 33 HIV cases were imported and mainly due to blood transfusions abroad. They refrain from mentioning cases resulting from sexual contact.

But medical sources say that at least two of the seven AIDS patients reported to have died in Egypt contracted the disease through sexual contact.

U.S. envoy pledges support for Afghan rebels despite rifts

ISLAMABAD (R) — A U.S. envoy to Afghan rebels pledged continued support for their provisional government despite bloody feuds between rival groups.

Ambassador Peter Tomsen told reporters after two weeks of talks with the rebels in neighbouring Pakistan that reports of "intercine" clashes were discouraging. "Resistance unity and cooperation is of paramount importance," he said.

He said Washington would continue arms supplies to the re-its, saying Moscow was pouring in \$7 million worth of weapons a day to President Najibullah's government.

"The United States will continue to stand by the resistance, supporting it and the Afghan Interim Government (AIG) in all areas," he said.

"We see the AIG as a key element in the resistance. It is a political group which is beginning

to make progress," he said, adding that he was concerned at its failure to bring in the minority Shi'ite Muslim community.

Tomsen said the Mujahedeen rebels were making unspectacular but significant military gains in different parts of Afghanistan, helped by continuing defections.

He was confident they would be able to defeat Najibullah's government by force of arms, a view not shared by most Western Afghan-watchers in Pakistan.

Rebel and Western analysts say the movement is undergoing a crisis following the clashes in Takhar province and the virtual withdrawal from the AIG of radical rebel leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar earlier this week.

Hekmatyar's Hezb-i-Islami guerrilla party said it would stop attending AIG cabinet meetings until elections were held among guerrillas, refugees and the people in rebel-held areas of Afghanistan.

Analysts said the move was precipitated by the fighting between a Hezb band led by Saeed Jamal and Mujahedeen under the command of Ahmad Shah Massoud of the rival Jamiat-Islami party.

Hezb says 300 Mujahedeen and civilians were killed last week when Jamiat men launched a revenge attack for the killing of some of Massoud's guerrillas in Takhar in July.

Jamiat says its men captured Jamal's band without bloodshed, however, and they would be tried for the killings. Independent information was not available.

Tomsen said the United States supported all Afghans contributing to the rebel movement without favouring any one faction or person.

Asked about prospects for a negotiated settlement with Najibullah, he said he had seen no evidence that the rebels were prepared to accept this. "There is a test going on right now, a test of strength on the battlefield," he said.

To stop U.S. arms supplies would put the Mujahedeen at a big disadvantage, he said.

More than 2,500 giant Ilyushin-76s plane has flown into Kabul with new weapons for Najibullah since the last Soviet troops left in February, he said.

At least 300 Soviet military advisers were helping Afghan army commanders plan operations and fire the big Scud missiles brought in 10 months ago. Others were in the information ministry and intelligence services, he said.

Kidnappers said holding right to retaliate as sacred

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Captors holding U.S. hostages in Lebanon are motivated by a personal vengeance that will be more difficult to overcome since Israel kidnapped a Muslim cleric, says a U.S. Muslim leader who claims to have met with the hostage-holders in Beirut.

Mohammad Mehdi, secretary-general of the National Council on Islamic Affairs, said Thursday the kidnapping of Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid worsened the prospects that the "exceptionally bitter, exceptionally paranoid" kidnappers will free the hostages.

"They feel the right to retaliation is sacred, and any questioning of that is illegitimate," said Mehdi, who claims to be possibly the only person in the United States who has met with the kidnappers in Beirut.

The Israelis said Obeid was linked with Hizbollah, the pro-Iranian extremist group believed to sponsor hostage-holders. They abducted him from his home in South Lebanon July 28 by Israeli commandos.

The pro-Iranian Organisation of the Oppressed on Earth claimed July 31 it retaliated by hanging U.S. marine William Higgins, who was abducted while on U.N. duty in Lebanon. A threat also was made against hostage Joseph Cicippio.

Mehdi claims to have met with people responsible for holding Cicippio and Terry A. Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent of the Associated Press, during a February 1987 visit to Beirut to appeal for the hostages' release.

He said he was led blindfolded to the meeting in a dimly lit room in Beirut and met four men ranging in age from about 20 to 25.

The man who claimed to be in charge of holding Anderson, the longest-held hostage who was kidnapped in 1985, said his entire village was destroyed by U.S. bombs dropped in retaliation for the bombing of the U.S. marines' headquarters in Lebanon, when 241 servicemen were killed.

"He is so damn bitter he is ready to drop such shells on New York, on Washington," Mehdi said of Anderson's captor, who lost his wife, children and grandparents when his village was bombed.

Mehdi said his attempts to persuade the kidnappers that their actions violated Islamic law, that the taking of innocent hostages was contrary to the faith's teachings on personal forgiveness and individual responsibility, were "a dead road."

Mehdi, who is seeking a meeting with Secretary of State James Baker, said the U.S. should pressure Israel to release Obeid to start "a chain of events to secure the release of the hostages."

Sheikh Obeid, to his group in southern Lebanon, is like the Pope, said Mehdi. "Colonel Higgins was a victim of this."

The United States also should start trying to understand the suffering that caused the kidnappers to take hostages, Mehdi said.

"People are not born terrorists. Circumstances make them take such violent actions. If we don't bother to examine those circumstances, we will be denying ourselves the opportunity to solve a problem," Mehdi said.

EC aid to Lebanon

European Community (EC) governments have agreed to provide more emergency humanitarian aid to victims of the fighting in Lebanon, an EC spokesman said.

Community sources said the new package was expected to involve aid between \$5 million and \$10 million.

Officials of the 12 EC governments and the European Commission approved the package after hearing a report from an EC fact-finding delegation which visited Lebanon last week.

The commission, the EC's executive body, granted emergency aid worth \$550,000 to Lebanon in mid-August.

The new package would include contributions from individual governments as well as EC money and would be distributed through non-governmental organisations to ensure that it reached both Christians and Muslims, the sources said.

France, which currently holds the EC's rotating presidency, has been trying to end the fighting between Lebanese rightist forces and Syrian-supported leftist militias, in which at least 770 people have been killed since March.

CONGRATULATIONS
Mouawad Paper Company/Beirut
& Mouawad Paper Agency/Amman
CONGRATULATE
Mr. & Mrs. Subeil George Zu'mot
on their newlyborn
GEORGE
May God bless him and grant him
a life full of health and happiness.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	News in French
15:45	Programme review
15:55	Children programme
17:30	Educational programme
18:00	News summary
18:25	Message from Iraq
18:35	A play by Shakespeare
19:10	Local programme
19:40	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:30	Programme review
21:40	Consumer's Guide
22:25	Local programme
23:00	News in Arabic
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:30	Coultures
18:00	News in French
18:15	Amjoud 'rai en Jordanie
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Natural Phenomena
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Allo Allo
21:10	Saturday Variety Show
22:40	News in English
23:20	Feature film: "Hollow Point"
PRAYER TIMES	
04:46	Fajr
06:05	(Sunrise) Dhuha
12:35	Dhuhr
16:11	'Asr
19:10	Maghrib
20:25	Isha

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR	
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Sweidiah, Tel. 810740	
Assumption of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terraviva Church Tel. 623666	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 626543.	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.	
Autonomous International Church Tel. 685226.	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
The weather will continue to be fine with low clouds appearing in the morning and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be moderate and seas calm.	
Min./max. temp. 17/26	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Amin Abdul Jabbar	614222
Dr. Salah Al 'Omar	640208
Dr. Awar 'Aghabawi	642696
Dr. Wael Kharabati	665917
Fina pharmacy	661912
Redwood pharmacy	776336
Al Asoka pharmacy	637055
Naiwaka pharmacy	626672
Al Salma pharmacy	636790
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shamsiati pharmacy	637660
NIGHT DUTY	
Dr. Lawrence Bader	(-)
Al Shamsa pharmacy	(985238)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Randa Shabih	636381
Khalifa pharmacy	985417
EMERGENCIES	
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	630341
Rescue	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	773121
Highway Police	845402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	60221
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	601776
Water and Sewerage	661166
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	787111
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	
Repeats	623101
Abdali Telephone Repeats	661101
Jordan Television	771111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	615615
Electric Power	
Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	06-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport	06-53200
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn	644281/6
Akhidi Maternity, J. Amn	640412
Isabel Amman Maternity	642362
Mallat, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shamsiati	664174
Shamsiati Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845404
Al-Musader Hospital	667277/9
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/7
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Isfahan, Al-Muhajreen	77101/3
Al-Badali, J. Ashrafieh	775111/26
Azmy, Marza	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/50
ZARQA:	
Amal Hospital	674155
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)991071
The Sinai Hospital	(09)980732
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
05:30	Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
06:00	Damascus (RJ)
10:15	Amman (RJ)
10:30	Amman (RJ)
10:45	New Delhi (RJ)
10:50	Cairo (RJ)
11:35	Dhahran (RJ)
11:40	Kuwait (RJ)
11:50	Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
12:00	Colombo (RJ)
12:05	Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)
12:15	Baghdad (RJ)
12:45	New York, Montreal (RJ)
17:20	Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)
17:45	Cairo (RJ)
18:15	Adams (RJ)
18:25	Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)
20:40	Tripoli (RJ)
OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)	
13:00	Baghdad (RJ)
13:20	Cairo (RJ)
14:30	Kuwait (RJ)
15:45	Tripoli (RJ)
17:25	Niyadh (RJ)
17:35	Rome (RJ)
20:40	Paris, Damascus (RJ)
DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
06:00	Amman (RJ)
11:40	Tripoli (RJ)
12:10	Athens (RJ)
12:15	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:30	Baghdad (RJ)
12:40	Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
13:00	London (RJ)
13:15	Paris (RJ)
13:30	Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ)
13:45	Cairo (RJ)
14:00	Kuwait (RJ)
14:30	Dhahran (RJ)
14:45	Karachi, Dubai (RJ

Sharif Zaid receives farmers' representatives

AMMAN (Petra) — Representatives of farmers in the southern Jordan Valley region met Thursday with Prime Minister Sharif Zaid. The prime minister received their requests and briefed him on the situation in their region.

The prime minister promised to respond favourably to the requests and said he would visit the southern Jordan Valley region as soon as possible to take a close look at the situation there and to study the best means of providing help to achieve improvement. The prime minister said the agricultural sector is a component for the national economy and therefore every thing possible should be done to improve it. The farmers' representatives expressed their appreciation of the prime minister's response and his keenness to help farmers efforts.

Government raises prices of soft drinks

AMMAN (Petra) — The prices of locally-produced soft drinks were raised Friday under a decision taken by Minister of Supply Ibrahim Ayyoub. The new prices were set as follows:

	Bottle capacity	Wholesale price JD	Price for consumers
A. Box containing 24 returnable bottles	250 ml	1.770	80 fils/bottle
B. Box containing 12 returnable bottles	1 litre	3.330	290 fils/bottle
C. Returnable bottle	175 ml	1.290	60 fils/bottle
D. Can	250 ml each	—	150 fils each

The decision also commits the manufacturing companies to deliver its products of soft drinks to stores in all regions of the Kingdom, ensure adequate quantities, and clearly labelling the price on every bottle.

The price rises, which go into effect Sunday, nullify all related decisions issued earlier. Violators would be subjected to punitive measures.

A Ministry of Supply spokesman said that the new prices were set after completing a comprehensive study in light of the prevailing rate of exchange.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

KING CONGRATULATES LIBYA: His Majesty King Hussein has cabled congratulations to Libyan leader Mu'amar Qadhafi on the 20th anniversary of the Sept. 1 revolution. In his cable, the King wished Qadhafi good health and Libyan people further progress and prosperity. (Petra)

PRINCE RA'D HOLDS TALKS WITH ASFOUR: Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid Thursday met with Amman Chamber of Commerce Chairman of directors Mohammad Asfour and members of the board. During the meeting, Prince Ra'd explained the activities of the General Federation of the Handicapped as well as the efforts exerted to rehabilitate the handicapped and help them to become productive members of society. (Petra)

MASA'DEH IN BAGHDAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Masa'deh arrived in Baghdad Friday at the invitation of Iraqi Interior Minister Semir Mohammad Abdul Wahab to participate in the first meeting of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) ministers of interior. Masa'deh said the ministers would discuss security cooperation, the chances to exchange security and administrative information, and the chance to benefit from the training centres available in the ACC countries. (Petra)

ASSAD RETURNS: Minister of Higher Education Dr. Nassereddin Al Assad Friday returned home after leading the Jordanian delegation to the fourth conference of the ministers in charge of higher education and scientific research the Arab World which concluded in Damascus Thursday.

SANAA GOVERNOR ARRIVES: Sanaa Governor Colonel Hussein Maisour arrived in Amman Friday on a visit lasting several days during which he will hold talks with Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'uf Rawabdeh and senior municipal officials dealing with promoting cooperation between Amman and Sanaa.

ACC urged to ban foreign auditing firms

AMMAN (Petra) — A meeting by auditors and certified accountants in the four member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries, which ended here Thursday, recommended that the governments of Egypt, North Yemen, Iraq and Jordan ban the establishment of offices affiliated to foreign auditors and accountants firms in the four countries.

The meeting instead urged the four governments to grant auditing firms in ACC states the right to set up their own groupings and to establish new offices for their operations.

Participants in the two-day meeting, which grouped representatives of auditing and accounting firms in the four countries, decided to set up a standing committee to help organise auditing and accounting professionals in the ACC states and to hold periodic meetings in order to discharge its duties. The committee, which will have its offices in Amman, comprises of eight members, two from each country. According to a final statement.

The participants also decided that the committee convene in three months time to consider amendments to be introduced to help the auditing firms in the four countries unify their laws and regulations pertaining to their professions.

They urged the ACC secretariat to grant facilities for auditing and accounting firms to move freely and establish businesses in any of the four countries, and to help them embark on training personnel and exchange expertise that would promote the auditing and accounting business.

The meeting was opened Wednesday by ACC Secretary General Hilmi Nammar who urged the participants to help the four member council in its serious efforts to overcome economic problems and boost national economies.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITION

★ An art exhibition by Jordanian artists Khaleel Ghawamneh and Abdullah Kamaleh, and the Syrian artist Wafan Al Masri at the Housing Bank Art Gallery.

★ An art exhibition by Jordanian artist Jalal Oringet at the Plastic Artists Association.

FILMS

★ A Soviet film week which includes films depicting life in the Soviet Union, at the Royal Cultural Centre.



6 new governors sworn in

AMMAN — Six new governors appointed at the Ministry of Interior were sworn in Thursday before His Majesty King Hussein at a ceremony held at the Royal Court. The new appointees are: Issam Al Zaben, Salameh Hamad, Khalaf Maharmeh, Jawdat Shoul, Fahd Gharaibeh and Mohammad Shobaki. The swearing in ceremony was attended by Chief of the Royal Court Moudar Badran and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Salem Masa'deh (Petra photo).

Damascus meeting urges Arabs to help universities under occupation

DAMASCUS (Petra) — Ministers responsible for higher education and scientific research in the Arab World ended a meeting in Damascus by urging their governments to extend all possible assistance to the universities in the occupied Arab territories.

A final statement issued here condemned Israel's atrocities in occupied Palestine and praised the struggle of the Palestinian people to regain freedom and independence.

Minister of Higher Education Nassereddin Al Assad, who attended the four-day meeting, said the ministers approved a proposal for the establishment of an Arabisation centre to translate foreign terms and publish material related to higher studies and research in Arabic.

The centre will be established in Damascus and will be in charge of an affiliated centre, also in Damascus, to supervise research in educational programmes, according to Assad.

The minister said that the projected Arabisation centre is bound to play a major role in promoting education at the university level and in all fields of specialisations, and will help develop educational and scientific research programmes in the Arab World.

The minister said the meeting urged all Arab universities to extend a helping hand to the Arab League Educational Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALECSO) in its plans to bolster Arabic teaching programmes in Islamic countries, especially in Asia and Africa.

They also recommended intensified contacts and stronger relations with other universities to benefit from their experience in scientific research programmes, the minister noted.

He said that the ministers decided to meet again in two years time and discuss subjects related to the future of university education and its service to development.

AMMAN (J.T.) — Japanese Ambassador to Jordan Makoto Watanabe, Friday reaffirmed Japan's position towards the Palestinian cause, saying that a comprehensive and permanent peace in the Middle East should be established, through the execution of the Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the recognition of the Palestinians' right to self-determination.

He added that his country supports the convening of an international conference for peace in the Middle East, saying that Japan also considers the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as the sole representative of the Palestinian people and that it must take part in the peace talks.

In an interview with Jordan News Agency, Petra, on the occasion of the Arab-Japanese dialogue and the Japanese-Jordanian relations seminar to be convened in Amman on Sept. 4, Watanabe said this position was reaffirmed during the visit of Japan's minister of foreign affairs to Jordan last summer. During that visit the Jordanian and Japanese sides announced that their stands concerning the Middle East issue are identical, and "Japan constantly supports Jordan's policies towards the issue."

He expressed his country's concern over the Israeli practices against the Palestinian people "who are going through difficult political, economic and social circumstances."

Watanabe said that the Jordanian-Japanese relations are very strong and both countries are making progress in establishing full cooperation in different fields.

He said that from 1974 to 1988, Japan has offered Jordan more than \$500 million, through the government development programme, making Jordan's share the highest in the Middle East.

He stressed Japan's willingness to support Jordan's economic efforts, saying that the Japanese government has already offered grants for technical training to more than 200 Jordanian experts and technicians in Japan.

Watanabe said that recently there has been increased interest by the United States, Japan, India, Singapore and Taiwan, in increasing investments in Jordan. He referred to an investment seminar held in Tokyo last year, during His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's visit to Japan.

He also said that both the seminar and the dialogue represent an attempt to enhance understanding between Japan and the Arab World.

Meanwhile, the Greater Amman Municipality will hold talks with Greater Amman Municipality officials and Mayor Abdul Ra'uf Al Rawabdeh on ways to increase bilateral cooperation and to coordinate efforts by municipal authorities in Baghdad, Amman, Sanaa and Cairo — capitals of the four member countries in the Arab Cooperation Council ACC.

The mayor, who is accompanied by a delegation from Baghdad Municipality will hold talks with Greater Amman Municipality officials and Mayor Abdul Ra'uf Al Rawabdeh on ways to increase bilateral cooperation and to coordinate efforts by municipal authorities in Baghdad, Amman, Sanaa and Cairo — capitals of the four member countries in the Arab Cooperation Council ACC.

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Jordan to receive more U.S. aid to boost private sector's productivity

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan is to receive an additional \$1 million from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to help it stimulate increased productivity in the Kingdom's private sector, according to an agreement signed in Amman Thursday.

The new grant raises the contributions from the United States government to Jordan's endeavour in the industrial and agricultural fields to \$11 million, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The agency said that the \$10 million, for which an agreement was signed earlier in Amman, were being channelled to the private sector's needs through the Industrial Development Bank, the Cities and Villages Development Bank and the Agricultural Credit Corporation which provide loans to private sector firms wishing to embark on projects to increase production and exports.

The grant is being offered with in the Private Enterprise and Technical Resources Assistance (PETRA) three-year programme initiated in 1986.

The programme provides a highly flexible mechanism under which a variety of private sector activities can be supported.

Depending on the specific activity, the project can fund technical assistance, studies, commodities and/or training, according to a USAID press release here.

It said that the major purpose of the project is to stimulate productivity increases in the Kingdom's private sector.

The project will support efforts by the government to help the private sector assume a greater responsibility for furthering development in Jordan through:

— Helping to create additional jobs for skilled and semi-skilled citizens.

— Improving product and service quality in the country and increasing Jordan's exports both regionally and throughout the world.

PETRA project focusses on assisting the Kingdom to address policy constraints to the private sector and industry-level constraint by conducting marketing and risk analysis seminars and funding agri-business and other business assessments, firm level constraints by providing technical assistance and capitals constraints by conducting studies of development finance mechanisms and capital markets.

The agreement Thursday was signed by Minister of Planning Ziad Fariz and U.S. Ambassador Roscoe Suddarth as well as USAID Director in Amman Lewis Reade.

AMMAN — The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) is currently undertaking the responsibility of checking up the products of the Jordan Universal Gas Cookers and Washing Machines (JUGCWM), in accordance with the one-year agreement RSS signed with the company in July 1989.

The agreement also entrusts RSS with the duty of providing technical advice in improving products and preparing the specifications of any equipment the company intends to buy.

The agreement was signed by RSS president Dr. Hami Mulk and the company Director General Rashid Makhluf.

Meanwhile, an RSS statement announced that a meeting by representatives of scientific research centres in the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries will start Saturday.

The two day meeting to be held at the RSS offices in Amman will deal with scientific and technological potentials in the four Arab countries — Egypt, Iraq, North Yemen and Jordan — and will review reports on projects to be set up near the Dead Sea to exploit its minerals.

According to the announcement, questions related to promoting cooperation among the four countries in scientific fields and

short and long term plans for joint action in science and technology will also be discussed — Petra, RSS News.

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An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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Welcome to the Mideast quiz

WHAT IS the latest Israeli stunt to quell the intifada? A plan which envisages continued Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip until after the year 2,000. What does it entail? Formation of new army units, extension of duration of term of duty for reserve soldiers, emphasis on usage of "smart weapons" with advanced targeting and guidance systems as well as stepped-up military intelligence gathering.

What does it mean? The mighty Israeli army machine is being oiled for a war of annihilation against the "children of the revolution of stones."

What does it herald on the internal Israeli front? Bitterness among a good number of Israeli soldiers, arguments among peace activists, and entrenched positions for the hardliners and extremists.

What does it signal on the occupied territories? Frustration-fuelled extremism among hitherto moderate Palestinians and encouragement to hardliners to escalate armed resistance.

What does Washington have to say? The plan does not help peace efforts. No more, no less.

What message does it send to other supporters of Israel? Shelve your peace moves ladies and gentlemen; Israel knows better than to accept that security lies in coexistence based on accommodation and respect for other's rights.

What does the plan tell the mainstream Palestine leadership? Don't let Arafat waste any more breath going around talking about recognising Israel and the two-state solution. Abandon dreams of a negotiated settlement, step up attacks on Israeli targets with a vengeance and to hell with international opinion; (it hasn't helped much anyway).

What does the Palestinian dissidents say? We told you so. Arafat should now step down and let us take over. We know how to bring Israel to its knees.

What does the international community have to say? Nothing, let us wait and see whether Israel is "really serious" about rejecting any return of land before issuing any comment.

What do the Arabs have to say? We condemn the plan. It is nothing but the latest manifestation of Israel's ulterior determination to hang onto the occupied territories. Let us call Washington. But we will continue to support the intifada (How? We'll see that in the year 2000 when we get tired of issuing declarations of support for the Palestinians and condemnations of Israeli practices).

Where do we, the Arabs, go from here? Nowhere. Israel wants a war.

Are we ready for it? No, we are committed to peace. And, if not war, where is peace? Vanished into thin air with no trace.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i and Al Dustour daily newspapers discussed in their editorials the situation in the occupied territories. Al Ra'i said that the U.N. Security Council is urged to take action in view of Israel's deportation of Palestinian Arabs because it is the duty of the international community to put an end to Israel's atrocities against the civilian population of Palestine. We have not seen yet any firm move on the part of the council to intervene and end Israel's atrocities which had continued over the past 21 years and end occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the paper noted. It is time that the world community dealt more firmly with Israel's disregard to international laws and human rights principles so that the United Nations organisation can remain a respected forum enjoying credibility and wielding real power in world politics, the paper added. It said regardless of the future moves on the part of the United Nations to establish justice, the Palestinian people will pursue their uprising and will continue the struggle until they regain their rights. The deportation of Palestinians, added the paper, can never intimidate the stone-throwers and the Palestinian leaders, and will only open the door for intensified resistance activity against the Zionists.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily comments on the role of Libya within the Arab World now that Tripoli has joined the Maghreb union along with Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia and Mauritania. Mahmoud Rimawi says that the Libyan revolution now has no role to play and the Libyan leadership is indeed seeking to follow a more realistic course in politics than it did in the past. The writer notes with satisfaction Tripoli's improvement of relations with Iraq, mending of fences with Egypt and endeavours to end disputes with Chad and neighbouring African nations. He says that the Libyan revolution which at first sought unity with Arab countries and sought to topple Arab governments is now seeking a smaller role within the Arab World and at the same time improving its image with the international community. This regression or recoiling offends the Libyan politicians no alternative but to turn to international problems which await solutions, the writer notes. He says that though Libya's relations with other nations have improved, there is a long way to go along the path of adjustment to the needs of the Libyans and a realistic view towards the role which Libya can play in pan-Arab affairs.

Al Dustour daily said in editorial that the Israeli occupation authorities seem to have not learnt yet the lessons of the past and can only follow a course marked with mistakes as a result of repressive policies they are determined to follow in the occupied Arab lands. The paper said that Israel's adamant position with regard to granting the Palestinian people their legitimate rights can only increase the efforts of the Palestinian people to fight for their freedom and Israel's iron fist policy can only lead to further turmoil in the region. The paper referred in particular to Yitzhak Rabin's recent statement that Israel intends to bring in new forms of intimidation and terrorist actions to put an end to the intifada and said that the Palestinians are determined to foil such attempts as they believe that the uprising is their own life and the only road for freedom.

Arab-American relations: challenges to U.S. ideals

By Frank L. Kaplan

COLORADO — In his book describing the Soviet state and its people, a former Washington Post Moscow correspondent warned readers that comparing the USSR with western states too closely is inevitable but usually irrelevant. "Russians could not live like Englishmen or Americans even if they wanted to, which they do not," wrote Robert G. Kaiser in Russia: The People and the Power. "They must live like Russians, which means they cannot turn their society into a copy of ours."

Kaiser's warning is applicable not only to the Soviet Union but also to other countries, including the 20 plus states generally considered as part of the Arab World. Unfortunately, many Americans and other Westerners either fail to understand Kaiser's admonition or refuse to acknowledge its wisdom, whether the reference is to the USSR, Iran, China or Arab states.

Although Americans pride themselves in their self-perceived fair-mindedness and tolerance, they harbour nonetheless a

tendency of distrust in anything different, especially foreign-different, so that anyone espousing non-Western ideological and/or religious views may easily be dubbed anti-democratic and, by association, anti-American.

This is especially true of the Arabs due to the gulf-like differences, evident in practically all societal aspects, that exist between Arab and Western states.

What is more, the U.S. mass media, particularly the entertainment sector, have reinforced a sentiment of antagonism and distrust towards the Arab peoples by exploiting the existing differences and feeding the American public with a steady diet of stereotypes based on myths rather than on fact to satisfy the need for universal villains. One has only to turn to any channel to see that television shows are "full of Arab baddies — billionaires, bombers and belly dancers," said Prof. Jack G. Shaheen in his book, The TV Arab. "They are virtually the only TV images of Arabs viewers ever see."

A common error is to equate

Iranians are Persians, speaking not Arabic but Farsi, an Indo-European language. They are mainly Aryans, not Semites as the Arabs are. And while most news consumers are able to identify Yasser Arafat and Moammar Qadhafi as Arabs, far fewer realise that the 1988 Nobel Prize for Literature was awarded to Egyptian writer Naguib Mahfouz, or that author of The Prophet Khalil Gibran, was a Lebanese philosopher and artist who had spent much of his life writing in America.

Arabs, like most groups, have contributed significantly to human development, from inventing the clock and developing the centre of gravity concept to introducing sugar cane and oranges. But viewers seldom see such facts presented on television programmes.

Since the United States is one of the largest producers and exporters of television programmes, the dissemination of distorted images about the Arab peoples and their cultures has international implications. This means that not only U.S. but also foreign audiences regularly view television

programmes and reruns that portray myths about the Arabs which Shaheen has divided into four categories: "They (Arabs) are fabulously wealthy; they are barbaric and uncivilized; they are sex maniacs with a penchant for white slavery; and they revel in acts of terrorism." Such myths have been perpetuated on programmes from "Dallas" to "The Equaliser."

The misrepresentations display not only an ignorance about a strategic global region but also an insensitivity to millions of peoples comprising numerous states, several of which are sympathetic toward the United States. And, seemingly, no one cares.

The obvious questions, then, are why the evident distortion, and what can be done to counteract the trend?

Is violence of the type witnessed in Lebanon the main reason for the media's exploitation of the negative Arab image? If that be true, the U.S. media stand on shaky ground due to their own penchant for pandering opulence, violence and sex, whether the designated format is entertainment or news.

Public education must also take some of the blame, as most America's political leaders and policy-makers, many of whom are poor examples by being as ill-informed about the Middle East as are the television writers, producers and directors who use stereotyping out of expediency and as a selling point to glibly and apathetic audiences.

But the mass media and, especially, their advertisers should be held accountable for their actions, and subjected to constant criticism and demands that television programming in particular be responsible. As television critic, the Rev. Donald E. Wildmon, explained in his June 19 interview with Time magazine, it is far more effective to deal with television advertisers than with the networks when attempting to affect programming. "Advertisers don't give you a cold shoulder," he said. "They want to be your friends."

Whether in the realm of entertainment or news, which increasingly are becoming blurred through the medium of commercial television, the conscious mis-

representation of societies and peoples, such as the Arabs, should be continually challenged. The criticism should emanate from responsible scholars, journalists, civic leaders and, most importantly, media consumers until media decision-makers are fully committed to the principle that the responsibility of the press, radio and television is not only to inform but also to educate the public about foreign events, and the countries in which they occur.

No less responsible for challenging media stereotyping are the nation's universities, especially the many schools and departments of journalism and mass communication. Collectively, they should serve as the watchdog of the media, just as the mass media portray themselves as the watchdog of government.

For false imagery and stereotyping is unworthy of any major institution of a nation built on democratic principles, ethnic diversity and religious tolerance, and one which regards itself as the world's chief defender of human rights — Arab News.

Judging 'post-history,' the theory to end all theories

By Richard Bernstein

FIRST came postmodernism, which stems from the idea that there can no longer be anything new in the arts than what has already been created. Now a State Department official, Francis Fukuyama, has caused a stir among intellectuals with his thesis that the period of "post-history" has arrived. With the decline of fascism and Communism, he argues, Western liberal democracy has triumphed and mankind has reached its highest wisdom. History has come to an end.

This startling concept, announced by Mr. Fukuyama, the deputy director of the State Department's policy planning staff and a former analyst for the Rand Corporation, in the current issue of The National Interest magazine, seems like one of those crystallisations of thought that, like postmodernism itself, could become part of the common vocabulary in some circles.

Hegel, whose philosophy is difficult even by German standards and who is amply cited by Mr. Fukuyama, has become something of a fashion in Washington. The columnist George Will recently expounded on Mr. Fukuyama's ideas in Newsweek. The Washington Post printed an abridgement of The National Interest essay.

Owen Harries, an editor at the quarterly, said that the Soviet Union's Institute for Canadian and American Affairs had contacted Mr. Fukuyama about publishing his article. Translations are to appear in France, Japan, Italy and the Netherlands.

Why the fascination with an essay that includes some rather arcane philosophical references, discussing the competing roles of "materialism" and "idealism" as forces in world history, and offers no concrete prescriptions for national policy?

In Mr. Harries's view, Mr. Fukuyama comes along at just the right moment, when many around the world sense that something momentous is occurring and yearn for convincing explanations that go beyond the current debates over whether the cold war has ended or not.

Homogenised politics

"Up to now, the attempts to explain what is happening have been inadequate and parochial, tied to the cold war and the premises of the cold war," Mr. Harries said. "What Fukuyama has done is de-parochialise the whole discussion and link what has happened currently with the broader sweep of history."

What is happening, of course, are economic and political reforms in the Soviet Union, the improvement of relations between East and West, and the decline of socialism in Eastern Europe and the Third World. There is also what Mr. Fukuyama calls the "inevitable spread of consumerist Western culture" everywhere in the world from China to Iran — even under the ayatollahs — leading to an eventual and inevitable "universal homogeneous state."

Taken together, these changes might appear to be parts of a new stage of history, the passing of the postwar world. But Mr. Fukuyama sees something far more important, namely, he says "the end of history as such that is, the end point of mankind's ideological evolution and the universalisation of Western liberal democracy."

Of course there will still be events, he adds, and many countries, including the Soviet Union and China, will take a long time to adopt Western liberalism. But slowly, inevitably, the Western idea will spread, imposing itself on a globe that will be unable to resist its power.

Many thinkers have postulated that the West has won and that democracy is inevitable in all the major countries — or, at least, that those countries that cling to discredited and dictatorial ideologies will remain outside the historical mainstream, backward and uncompetitive.

But Mr. Fukuyama goes further in stressing not so much the force of circumstances but the power of ideas. For the past century or so, both Marxists and many conservatives — the latter group he calls "the Wall Street Journal school of deterministic materialism" — have explained the world in terms of economic forces. Phenomena like economic reform in the Soviet Union and China have been seen as responses to failing economies and intensifying uncompetitiveness.

Learning to love Hegel

By contrast, and central to the notion of the end of history, Mr. Fukuyama has tried to reassert what he calls "the autonomous power of ideas," the Hegelian notion of history that was unperished by Marx. The idea of liberal democracy, that creation of 17th and 18th-century English and French thinkers, has demonstrated itself to be the best idea, the one that needs no improvement, he says. All other ideas have become exhausted. And if the idea determines material conditions, as Hegel would have it, rather than the other way around, in the long run the same idea will produce similar material conditions around the world.

Mr. Fukuyama is aware that the end of history has been declared before, Hegel proclaimed it in 1806, he notes, when Napoleon, that "world-historical figure" who embodied the ideals of the French revolution, defeated the Prussian monarchy. Later, Marx said the end was surely coming and it would be the same thing as Communism.

Is Mr. Fukuyama correct this time? Some writers, responding to his thesis, believe that he overstates the power of reason and underestimates that of unpredictability and irrationality.

"I myself have been too traumatised by Communism and Nazism to have any confidence in the eternal realities of history," the historian Gertrude Himmelfarb wrote in reaction to the article, "except the reality of contingency and change, of the unpredictable and the unanticipated (and, as often as not, the undesired and undesirable)."

And even if he is right, Mr. Fukuyama laments that there will be a "sadness" to the triumph of the West. The end of history, he says, promises to be dull, empty, devoid of challenge, heroism, great causes or struggles for principle.

It is telling, he says, that post-historical Europe has nothing more stirring to do with itself than invent rules for more economic cooperation. Some cultural critics might argue that the absence of a certain grandeur in the arts and literature these days comes from the unconscious knowledge of writers and artists that, history being over, there is

nothing to get excited about anymore but private life — and private life, while fascinating, has never been a cause worth dying for.

And so, not surprisingly perhaps, Mr. Fukuyama's proclamation has produced a certain anticipatory nostalgia and a fear that the West, having won, will fritter away its victory, seeking excitement and satisfaction in an

ever more obsessive pursuit of wealth and sensation. In the post-historical epoch there will still be drugs and crime.

"We may have won the cold war, which is nice — it's more than nice, it's wonderful," Irving Kristol, the publisher of The National Interest, writes in the current issue. "But this means that now the enemy is us, not them." — The New York Times.

How the West is winning

Excerpts from "The End of History?" by Francis Fukuyama, in The National Interest, Summer 1989:

THE triumph of the West, of the Western idea, is evident first of all in the total exhaustion of viable systematic alternatives to Western liberalism. In the past decade, there have been considerable changes in the intellectual climate of the world's two largest Communist countries, and the beginnings of significant reform movements in both. But this phenomenon extends beyond high politics and it can be seen also in the ineluctable spread of consumerist Western culture in such diverse contexts as the peasant's markets and colour television sets now omnipresent throughout China, the cooperative restaurants and clothing stores opened in the past year in Moscow, the Beethoven piped into Japanese department stores, and the rock music enjoyed alike in Prague, Rangoon, and Tehran.

What we may be witnessing is not just the end of the Cold War, or the passing of a particular period of postwar history, but the end of history as such: that is, the end point of mankind's ideological evolution and the universalisation of Western liberal democracy as the final form of human government.

For Hegel, the contradictions that drive history exist first of all in the realm of human consciousness, i.e. on the level of ideas — not the trivial election year proposals of American politicians, but ideas in the sense of large unifying world views... Consciousness is cause and not effect... hence the real subject underlying the apparent jumble of current events is the history of ideology.

Hegel's idealism has fared poorly at the hands of later thinkers. Marx reversed the priority of the real and the ideal completely, relegating the entire realm of consciousness — religion, art, culture, philosophy itself — to a "superstructure" that was determined entirely by the prevailing material mode of production. Yet another unfortunate legacy of Marxism is our tendency to retreat into materialist or utilitarian explanations of political or historical phenomena, and our disinclination to believe in the autonomous power of ideas... Indeed, there is on the right what one might label the Wall Street Journal school of deterministic materialism that discounts the importance of ideology and culture and sees man as essentially a rational, profit-maximising individual.

The end of history will be a very real thing. The struggle for recognition, the willingness to risk one's life for a purely abstract good, the worldwide ideological struggle that called forth courage, imagination, and idealism, will be replaced by economic calculation, the endless striving of technical problems, environmental concerns, and the satisfaction of sophisticated consumer demands. In the post-historical period there will be neither art nor philosophy, just the perpetual chattering of the muzzles of human history... Perhaps this very prospect of centuries of boredom... will serve to get history started once again.

Iran's hardliners look to Khomeini's son

By Eric Hall

Reuters

DUBAI — The self-styled ideological heirs of Ayatollah Khomeini are looking to his son Ahmad to revive their fortunes after their exclusion from the new Iranian government.

"Ahmad is the living symbol of his father. Everything depends now on what he does," said a European diplomat.

On Aug. 30, parliament approved President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani's full cabinet. Rafsanjani opted for managerial competence to achieve his aim of economic revival, through cooperation abroad when necessary.

He left out leading so-called hardliners, who welcome confrontation abroad and would bear economic hardship rather than undermine what they believe to be Ayatollah Khomeini's strict Islamic legacy.

This month, one hardliner, Mohammad Mousavi Khoeiniha, set down the challenge in a speech at Khomeini's grave.

People called us hardliners, he said. But the fact was that there were those who followed the late Ayatollah's line and there were those who did not, and they were misguided.

Western and Iranian analysts believe the hardline faction, championed by such men as former Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi and former Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi, will try to regroup around Ahmad.

Rafsanjani is likely to find a role for Ahmad in government to prevent him becoming a rallying point for the hardliners, the analysts said.

For the opposite reason, the hardliners will want Ahmad in parliament but not as speaker, a post which until recently was assumed to be his for the taking, the analysts said.

"Ahmad was the closest to his father for 10 years but he has little hard political experience. He would be too exposed in the post of speaker," an Iranian political source said.

"But if they keep him as a symbol, and he takes their stand, then there could be problems (for Rafsanjani)," he added.

Western analysts predict the hardliners will take time before mounting any serious challenge to Rafsanjani policies, hoping the cabinet will prove unable to solve Iran's serious economic problems.

"They may well have politics higher on their list than hopes for the financial well-being of the country," said a Western analyst in the Gulf.

Criticism has already started. In broadcast parliamentary debate Aug. 30, one member scoffed at the heavy industry minister's speech.

Mohammad Hadi Nezhad Eusein said he wanted to make Iran self-sufficient in heavy industry, prompting the question as to where he thought the money was going to come from to do this.

"The government is going to have to come out with real policies and not just old slogans if it wants to avoid trouble," said one Iranian analyst.

But a defence official said there had been no complaint this time. He said many firms were seeking to replace "unreliable" Arab labour with unemployed Israelis or by greater automation.

An estimated 60,000 Arab workers from the occupied West Bank, where the new cards have not so far been applied, have continued to work in Israel.

The Israeli army has given a high priority to breaking the Gaza resistance.

Army units, some disguised as Arabs or using unmarked cars, scour the strip at night, empowered to shoot on sight masked activists confiscating ID cards or spraying graffiti.

In an attempt to thwart the army's tactics, activists have barred Palestinians from driving after 6.30 p.m., making it easier to spot military patrols and undercover soldiers.

"One night we were with a big group of masked youths collecting cards in Gaza City when plainclothes Israelis in Arab cars spotted us," one of the hooded men recounted.

"They crouched behind their cars and ordered us to halt but we kept running down a dark alley. If they had fired at once, they could have killed us all," he said. Asked if they did not fear being shot, the activists who said they were followers of jailed Hamas religious leader Sheikh Ahmad Yassin said their highest goal was martyrdom.

Palestinian development projects are never far removed from politics

Walking a tightrope in the West Bank and Gaza

By Mark Newman

THE CAR was trapped. Small boulders the size of sheep blocked the road just ahead. When the car reversed, it soon encountered a second rock pile that had been hastily thrown up a kilometre to the rear. The occupants had only one choice: get out, clear a path and brave the likelihood of a deluge of stone-throwing as intense as a mortar barrage.

Avalanche? No. This was not the Alps or Himalayas. This was Bir Zeit, a village north of Ramallah in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, and this was March 30 — Land Day — when Palestinians commemorated the deaths of six of their number in a protest over land rights in 1976.

Land Day has become a date of special significance on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in the 18-month history of the Palestinian uprising — the intifada. Non-cooperation with the occupying forces and Israeli settlers reaches its peak on this day. Palestinian businesses close their doors. Non-military transport stops — but not vehicles of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), whose neutral role compels it to remain above the Arab-Israeli conflict. UNDP's Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People (PAPP), tries to function even on Land Day; the trapped car was attempting to ferry PAPP staff from their homes in West Bank villages to the office in Jerusalem.

The rock barricade is symbolic of numerous obstacles PAPP has to deal with in its day-to-day operations in the West Bank and Gaza. The stoning of U.N. cars — unlike vehicles of the Israeli army, police and settlers — is not a regular occurrence, but it has happened. Intifada groups do not look kindly on U.N. vehicles travelling through strike areas. Hence the anxious moments spent clearing a path through the

rubble blocking the road at Bir Zeit.

Strikes not only restrict U.N. staff movements but make precise project scheduling virtually impossible. PAPP's records reveal that a third of every work week has been lost to disruptions of one sort or another since the intifada began. In order to aid employment and boost the local economy in the two territories, PAPP's policy is to award all construction contracts to Palestinians, and these contractors feel obliged to honour the strikes — which sometimes last for days on end.

To exacerbate the situation, suppliers in Israel, who offer the most reasonably-priced materials, often refuse credit to Palestinian contractors and demand cash on delivery — cash the contractor seldom has. Even when materials are finally procured, equipment is not always available to employ them. It is not unknown for the Israeli army to commandeer U.N.-contracted construction vehicles to clear intifada barricades.

Then there's the curfew. Neighbourhoods considered particularly troublesome by Israel are often put under curfew by the occupying forces for days at a time, with free movement permitted only briefly once a day. At such times, the only people seen on the street are women scurrying to gather provisions before the deadline is up. U.N. personnel are banned from entering curfew areas, which are often the very places that the PAPP team has pinpointed as in most urgent need of assistance. Rashid Khouri, a PAPP engineer on the Gaza Strip, points to just such an area inside the Jabalia refugee camp as his car jolts along the pot-hole pitted road around the camp's perimeter. "In there," he says, "the effluent of more than 50,000 refugees runs through open drainage ditches to an uncovered

lake of raw sewage in the middle of the camp. Children play by the lakes so it's a big health hazard. We have a project to install sewage pipes and a pumping station to drain the lake, but since the camp is often under curfew, it's taking a long time to complete. It's under curfew right now."

Khouri stops at a pumping station just outside the camp where an old man, barely able to walk and with failing eyes, guards the gate. "We've just completed this pumping station," says Khouri. "It's working but we'll be handing it over to the Municipal Authority soon, and the Authority doesn't have the money or the staff to look after it properly. There should be at least one full-time technician here but there's only this old man."

The station is one of three in the area which will eventually pump the sewage of some 85,000 people in Gaza's northern region to a treatment plant near Gaza City. The system should be capable of handling the wastes of a population that is expected to double by the end of the century.

Two-thirds of the \$3.5 million cost of the project is being put by UNDP and the remainder by AGFUND — the Arab Gulf Fund for U.N. Development Activities. A further \$20 million will be needed to install sewage and treatment facilities for high priority areas on the rest of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

Support

For those who have already fallen prey to the unsanitary conditions, treatment at health centres throughout the occupied territories were, until recently, almost as rudimentary as the sewers. But working with the World Health Organisation (WHO), PAPP has added new equipment to three hospitals and the Central Laboratory in the Gaza Strip. Four hospitals and a nursing

training centre on the West Bank have also been upgraded.

Education and vocational training have been supported as well. UNDP has equipped 120 kindergartens, built 12 new classrooms for boys and 44 for girls, responding to the special need for improving education for women. Men now receive technical training in such fields as electronics and auto mechanics, while women are acquiring skills in hairdressing and secretarial services.

To date, PAPP has received over \$25 million from UNDP. Other contributions have come from AGFUND and the governments of Canada, Italy, Japan and Tunisia. The International Labour Organisation, WHO, and the United Nations Population Fund have also financed PAPP projects.

Still, PAPP's work in Palestinian areas is not always understood. While the main beneficiaries of the improvements have been Palestinians, these same beneficiaries have sometimes accused PAPP and UNDP of working "in league" with the Israeli government on health projects. The hospitals, they point out, are Israeli-owned, and hence it could be construed that UNDP money is being used to improve Israeli property when it should be going to Palestinians alone.

To function at all, PAPP is obliged by the Israeli government to have all its projects cleared by the Ministry of Defence, which in turn has overall control of the Occupied Territories. Delicate but firm negotiation is required for every project PAPP wants to support — an experience that PAPP Programme Director Niklas Nevrodis has had time to perfect, having held the position since the programme's start in 1980. This helps explain why PAPP has been able to initiate politically sensitive projects like the building of a new fisheries



complex on the Gaza Strip and the improvement of water supplies to villages on the West Bank.

"We don't operate like any other UNDP office," says Nevrodis. "We're not accredited to any government. Neither do we deal with other U.N. agencies in implementing our programme, because they are not allowed in. Elsewhere, UNDP shapes its projects to fit into a country's overall development plan. Here, there is no development plan. We have to go out and identify our own projects."

Nevrodis needed all his powers of persuasion to obtain Israel's approval for a new fisheries complex on Gaza City's beach. The installation includes a modern fish market, an ice-making plant and a refrigeration store — all within a fishing rod's cast of an Israeli army post.

Yet, the fishermen's needs are only being partly met. Following the Camp David peace agreement with Egypt in 1979, the strategic importance of the coastal stretch along the Gaza Strip prompted Israel to impose tight

control over the area. In keeping with the agreement, fishermen need special Israeli permits to work the offshore waters, and are banned from being on the shore at night.

Before Camp David, over 1,200 fishermen worked an area of over 2,000 square kilometres, often casting nets as far south as the Egyptian ports of Alexandria and Port Said. Today, they are not allowed into Egyptian waters and their fishing area has shrunk to 468 square kilometres. The average catch has dwindled from up to 40 tonnes a day to little more than four tonnes, and the ice-making plant, capable of making 12,000 kg. of ice in one 12-hour shift, needs to operate only once a week to supply ice for the shrunken catch.

PAPP's staff at the complex retain an unshakable belief in the project, confident that Egyptian waters will eventually be opened up to the fishermen. Moreover, active negotiations are in progress to build a UNDP-funded harbour near the complex to reduce wear and tear on fishing



boats, which currently have to be beached every night.

PAPP's water supply improvement scheme experienced similar delays at the negotiating table. In essence, PAPP intends to link 22 West Bank villages to main water pipelines or install new water reservoir towers to regulate flow. Nine covered storage reservoirs are being built to overcome irregular supplies to 13 villages and it is these reservoirs which could be construed as politically sensitive. The occupying forces often cut water to troublesome villages in their campaign to quell unrest. But such tactics, as PAPP's water reservoir project engineer, Musa El-Khatib, points out, are effectively undermined by the reservoirs, which give the villages a two-day reserve of water.

Nevertheless, after months of intense negotiation, the project got underway in 1987, and PAPP is in the process of trying to expand it to cover more than 100 additional villages. Such an effort would require a further \$3 million on top of the \$868,000 already

allocated. That is petty cash compared to the funds needed to initiate all the projects PAPP wants to see in place in Gaza and the West Bank. Almost \$57 million is being sought for these activities over and above the \$14 million already committed for the 1987-1991 period.

Since it is the only inter-governmental development organisation delivering substantial technical assistance to the West Bank and Gaza, PAPP identifies projects based on ideas from local municipalities and professional organisations, as well as followers of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, as required by the U.N. General Assembly.

Despite problems emanating from both sides of the ideological divide, PAPP's delicate fence straddling appears to be working to everyone's benefit. Now that the foundations for development in the Occupied Territories are finally being laid, the time might be right to borrow a word from the intifada vocabulary — "sumoud" — meaning hold firm. — UNDP

Museum depicts American soldiers as taloned torturers

By Kathy Wilhelm
The Associated Press

SINCHON, North Korea — Blond, blue-eyed American soldiers with wolf-like grins, claws for hands and long, hooked noses leer from the walls of the war museum in rural Sinchon county.

The passage of 36 years has not softened North Koreans' attitudes toward the army they maintain was the aggressor in the 1950-53 Korean war between the Chinese-aided north and U.N.-backed south.

In the 11 rooms of the Sinchon museum, North Korea presents what it says is evidence that American soldiers of the U.N. force killed 35,383 civilians while occupying the country for 52 days from October to Dec. 7, 1950.

The claims never have been investigated by neutral parties, nor have claims in South Korea that northern forces committed similar atrocities. The sides, divided at the end of World War II when Japanese forces withdrew, remain technically at war. The fighting was ended only by truce,

not a peace treaty.

Sinchon museum guides tell the atrocity stories with impassioned conviction to about 1,000 North Korean visitors each day, many of them schoolchildren, reinforcing the prevailing image here of the United States as a warmonger bent on exterminating all Koreans.

Glass cases hold fire-charred cloth shoes said to be from women and children locked in storehouses without food or water and eventually burned to death by the Americans.

Other cases hold swatches of black hair, some still braided and caked with mud, said to have been recovered from the corpses of women weighted down by stones and thrown into a reservoir.

There is a dagger said to have been used to cut out the eyeballs of civilians, and a gasoline can with USA on the side that allegedly was used to start one of the massacre fires.

The horrific accounts are illustrated by artists' reconstructions in which all the Americans are

blond, with impossibly long, hooked noses and evil grins.

The soldiers allegedly drove nails into a local official, sawed off the head of a teacher and tied a worker to two horse-drawn carts, then sent the horses in opposite directions.

The worker's son, Chu Sang-Won, then 5 years old, is said to have been one of only two children who survived a mass burning of 400 women and 102 children in two brick storehouses Dec. 7, 1950, the final day of occupation.

The younger Chu, now 43 and with three children of his own, gives tours at the museum and daily retells the story of the burning. "I was covered by a thick blanket. It was very cold," Chu said. "Suddenly there was a big noise, everything was burnt and I lost consciousness." He said he was protected by the blanket and dead bodies. His mother burned to death, he said.

He told his story briefly, with no sign of emotion. "I hate those who committed such a cold-blooded massacre," he said, but

not the Americans people.

The storehouses are near the museum and are part of the tour, but contain little to persuade a doubter. One storehouse was completely rebuilt after being destroyed by a bomb later in the war. The other has a new concrete floor and reinforced walls. Muddy black-and-white photographs also are shown to support the stories, but it is clear only that they show large numbers of bodies.

But the museum clearly exists not to convince sceptics, but to hand down accounts that the North Koreans accept as history. There seems to be no interest in punishing the alleged killers. Museum vice chairman Im Kyon-Sun said they have not tried to track down the American officer they claim ordered his troops to "bury alive everything in this county."

Kathy Wilhelm was among Beijing-based journalists recently invited to visit by the North Korean government as it shows signs of wanting to end its long isolation.

A year later, Ramstein air tragedy a haunted memory, point of protest

By Kevin Costelloe
The Associated Press

RAMSTEIN, West Germany — The crash of a stunt-flying team one year ago at the Ramstein air show has become a haunting memory for survivors and a rallying point for critics opposed to low-level military flights.

Disaster struck Aug. 28, 1988, when a flaming jet performing stunts before more than 300,000 spectators, hurtled into a crowd at the U.S. air base in Ramstein, killing at least 70 people and injuring about 450 others.

"I have to learn to forget, but I can't because of Karin," says 24-year-old Thomas Wenzel, whose fiancée was among the victims. "I ask myself over and over whether she suffered for a long time or whether she died instantly."

Wenzel was only slightly injured although he stood nearby. Yet many of the injured suffered severe burns.

Critics insist a lack of coordination between West Germans and Americans bungled rescue

efforts, while others say compensation to victims and their relatives is being paid at a snail's pace.

And in the months following the disaster, "Ramstein" has become a rallying cry for critics of low-level military training flights in West Germany.

About 1,000 demonstrators marched Aug. 13 at Ramstein to protest.

The demonstration came despite the observation by NATO and U.S. officials that the Italian Freccia Tricolori team involved in the accident had nothing to do with the military flights.

"Never again" and "Stop low-level flights," read some of the banners unfurled in the march led by the leftist group "Let us not forget."

The demonstrators also carried 70 crucifixes symbolising the dead.

Later the group watched a mock hearing, complete with five-member jury, that harshly criticised West German and U.S. officials involved in planning the air show.

Ramstein's conservative mayor Julius Drivier had refused to let the group use the town hall for the event, saying it reminded him of the "show trials" of the Nazi era.

Compensation denied

One of those who testified was Edna Kreutzer, who complained she was being refused compensation for the lost wages she was expecting from her 23-year-old son, Aloisius, one of the 61 West Germans killed.

"He was a miner with a good job and he made a lot of money," the 52-year-old woman said in a later interview. She works nights bundling newspapers to make ends meet for her family, including her crippled, 80-year-old mother.

The ZDF television network says officials have received 1,500 claims for compensation, but so far only half have been settled.

\$8.1 million have been paid out so far. The total sum will be several times that, ZDF said in an Aug. 23 report.

"Many of those affected complain about unreasonable recalcitrance and petty inquiries — the result of an obsolete compensation system that imposes strict limits on officials."

As part of observances for the anniversary, nations of the north Atlantic treaty organisation are grounding all military training missions in the usually crowded skies over West Germany.

In Bonn, conservative lawmakers are at odds with the Social Democrats (SPD) over the direction of a special commission that has been investigating the crash. But the SPD rejects criticism it is using the commission in hopes of exploiting anti-military sentiment ahead of next year's national elections.

"We want to be sure that Ramstein never occurs again," said SPD defence expert Erwin Horn recently.

The U.S. Air Force held an anniversary remembrance at the Ramstein base, remembering victims including the four Americans killed.

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Summer sales take Cairo by storm

Egypt implements creative accounting to round IMF

CAIRO (R) — Walking a political tightrope towards foreign exchange reform, Egypt is using creative accounting to avoid unpopular price rises for wheat, flour and cooking oil, economists say.

Under pressure from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Egypt last month raised its central bank rate, an artificially low exchange rate which acts as a hidden subsidy on prices.

"The IMF has always said that if Egypt had the budget resources to do so, it could protect sensitive commodities when the central bank rate was changed," one economist said.

On paper at least, staple commodities, should have leaped in price in line with the rise in the rate by more than a half.

But Egypt has instead kept wheat, flour and cooking oil prices down through an accounting trick which allows it to keep diverting earnings from state-owned companies into subsidies.

It thus managed to go part of the way to meet IMF demands to increase the rate without increasing discontent over the country's most sensitive political issue — the price of bread.

Bread prices have already crept up due to other moves to cut subsidies. But Egypt, where a rise in bread prices in 1977 sparked major riots, is keen to avoid too sharp an increase.

But economists said the move might not be enough to satisfy the IMF, whose endorsement is needed by Egypt before it can reschedule some of its \$50 billion of foreign debt.

Egypt has raised the central bank rate to 1.10 pounds to the dollar from 0.70 pounds. The official rate is 2.55 pounds.

The IMF wants the central bank rate abolished quickly, with all transactions carried out at the single higher rate. But Egyptian newspapers say a six-year phase-out is planned.

The central bank rate is applied to key imports and to revenues from the Suez Canal company and the state oil company. By understating the revenues, Egypt can offset the lower price of imports in a book-keeping exercise.

In effect, revenue from the two state-run foreign exchange earners is used to hold down the price of staple foods.

Under the system introduced last month, economists say imports and revenues will be calculated at the new rate.

But the state-owned companies will actually be paid at the old

rate. The remaining extra 0.40 pounds will be retained in special accounts to pay for subsidies in the price of wheat, flour and edible oil.

However, tea and sugar — which also take major shares of the average family's weekly outlays — do not appear to have been granted the same protection.

Negotiations with the IMF are expected to resume this month. But whatever the differences, experts say the system to protect bread and oil prices is less likely to be a sticking point.

Meanwhile, many Egyptians in a rocky economy find it difficult to balance dwindling incomes with soaring prices, but they do have one window of opportunity — the summer sales.

Cairo's shops and department stores are experiencing an unprecedented surge of business during the frenzied summer month when retailers cast off old stock at rock-bottom prices.

"Our sales have more than tripled during the past two weeks, although this is only our third sales season," said Wadie Naguib, manager at a private clothing shop in the Egyptian capital.

"People queue from the early morning to get a shirt, a suit or pyjamas because we offer real discounts of up to 80 per cent,"



Low-income Egyptians hunting for 'bargains'

he told Reuters.

Police provide security for many central shops thronged with enthusiastic crowds of shoppers eagerly hunting for bargains.

Store windows throughout the sprawling city of more than 12 million people are covered with huge signs proclaiming "sale" and "50 per cent discount."

Egypt has an annual inflation rate of more than 25 per cent, unemployment is growing and industrial production is in the doldrums.

Clothes come after food

Ordinary Egyptians, who have seen their purchasing power decline steadily as prices rise, say they have to spend more and more on food, leaving little for clothing and other needs.

"If you have five months to feed and you get only 150 pounds (\$60) a month, you don't have much left to think about clothes," said Mohamed Tawfik, a government worker and father of four.

The official average monthly salary for civil servants is little more than 100 pounds (\$40).

For low-income Egyptians, what spare cash they have goes into the summer and winter sales.

"I only buy essentials all the year round. But I really go shopping during sales," said housewife Omayma Abdul Rehim.

Matta Metri, sales manager at Omar Effendi, one of Cairo's

biggest state-owned chains, said there had been a sharp rise in business during the summer sales season.

Marriage season

Many people preferred to wait for the winter and summer sales in order to cut costs, he told Reuters. Shopowners also benefited by getting rid of outdated stocks and boosting cash reserves.

Metri added: "More young people on the threshold of marriage buy their needs during the sales season because they can save a lot of money."

Jordan hotels increase rates

AMMAN (J.T.) — Visitors to Jordan will pay up to 50 per cent more for their hotel rooms from Saturday unless their holidays are already booked, Tourism Minister Yanal Hikmat said.

"We will now quote prices in dollars, although tourists will still be able to pay in local currency at the rate in force on the day they arrive, he noted.

The minister, who spoke to the Jordan Times about this subject last month, told Reuters in an interview Thursday: "We agreed to adjust the prices to correspond with the new value of the dinar and the economic situation."

Hikmat said. "About 15 per cent is for inflation and the rest for the change in the dinar. The previous prices were very low and not realistic."

He said the new prices, ranging from \$100 a night for a single room at a five-star hotel to \$12 at a one-star hotel, should enable hoteliers to improve their services.

The increases will not apply to groups whose package tours have already been arranged, and lower rates will be on offer to Jordanians and Arabs who permanently reside here.

"This year has been a very good year and we are expecting a great increase (in tourist arrivals)," Hikmat said.

Package tours brought 39,000 tourists to Jordan in the first six months of 1989, compared with 62,000 in the whole of 1988. This year's visitors spent an average 4.9 nights in Jordan, against an average 4.6 nights last year, ministry figures show.

Tour operators have already block-booked the better hotels at Jordan's most popular tourist draws, the Red Sea beach at Aqaba and the ancient ruins of Petra, from October until May.

An acute shortage of hotel beds at these key attractions is hampering growth in the tourist industry, a vital source of foreign exchange for the Kingdom.

Preliminary central bank figures show tourists earnings last year at 230 million dinars (\$620 million at 1988 exchange rates), compared with visible exports worth 325 million dinars (\$875 million).

However, Jordanians spent 178 million dinars (\$480 million) abroad last year, cutting net revenue from tourism to 52 million dinars (\$140 million).

The government expects the outflow to drop this year because the devalued dinar means fewer Jordanians can afford to travel. It is trying to encourage domestic tourism as an alternative.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Abu Dhabi turns away Australian sheep

ABU DHABI (AP) — The emirate of Abu Dhabi had rejected 17,000 head of Australian sheep after tests showed they were diseased. The emirates news agency, WAM, quoted officials as saying the sheep had been found by clinical tests to be carrying Maltese fever. Arrangements were being made to re-export the animals, they said. Abu Dhabi became the second Gulf trade partner after Saudi Arabia to reject Australian sheep recently on grounds that they were diseased, a claim that Australian officials have vehemently denied. Australia suspended live sheep deliveries to Saudi Arabia after the Saudis turned away five shiploads of more than 200,000 animals, saying they carried viruses known as bluetongue disease and sheep pox. All of those sheep later were bought by other countries including Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and other emirates. Local news reports quoted officials as saying the 17,000 rejected by Abu Dhabi were among those rejected previously by the Saudis. Medical experts said Maltese fever, a mild form of brucellosis, is a bacterial infection as opposed to a virus.

'Walesa wants investments, not just aid'

THE HAGUE (R) — U.S. Senator Robert Dole said Friday that Poland needed more Western investment, rather than more aid, to help reform its economy. Asked how he thought it best to help Poland, he said: "What Walesa wants is banks to open, credit, investments. He's more interested in that than in aid." Bush pledged during a trip to Poland in July to provide \$119 million in economic aid. "I don't think you measure success by spending more dollars... if everyone pours in aid (into Poland) and they become an international welfare client, they won't be better off than they are now," he said.

Brunel gives Manila \$100 loan

MANILA (R) — Brunei has agreed to lend the Philippines \$100 million to help reduce its debt and cope with its balance of payments. Senators belonging to President Aquino's ruling coalition confirmed the loan during a senate debate in which they denied opposition charges that Aquino had tried to keep the transaction secret. Aquino said the loan was payable in 18 years with seven years grace, bore three per cent interest per annum payable quarterly, and carried a zero interest default rate. Aquino, whose government is saddled with a \$28 billion foreign debt, did not say when the loan was negotiated. "This highly concessional loan has been made available for broad balance of payments, debt reduction and project purposes of the Philippine government and is fully united as to procurement from any source in the world," Aquino said. "The Kingdom of Brunei has requested that this transaction be handled with the utmost discretion which I am requesting from your office."

Prague holds first hard currency auction

PRAGUE (R) — Czechoslovak state enterprises bought U.S. dollars for seven times their official rate at the country's first hard currency auction, the Communist Party newspaper Rude Pravo has said. Thirty-four enterprises participated in the experimental auction by the Czechoslovak Commercial Bank. They paid 105 crowns per dollar against an official exchange rate of around 15 crowns, the party daily said. Demand was 27 times greater than the amount on offer, it said, adding the auctions now would be held on a monthly basis. Companies not involved in exports previously had no way of obtaining hard currency for capital investment. The auction also provides companies which have acquired hard currency with an opportunity to sell it at a profit, the paper said.

Yugoslavia prepares one-million-dinar note

BELGRADE (R) — Yugoslavia

will introduce a new currency to help fight an inflation rate which hit almost 800 per cent in July, a deputy prime minister has said.

It is the most drastic initiative yet announced to end Yugoslavia's economic crisis, which is also reflected in an unemployment rate of at least 16 per cent, a foreign debt of more than \$20 billion and persistent industrial strikes.

"The government... will come up with a monetary reform, with redenomination of the dinar as its technical segment, maybe even late this year," Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandar Mitrovic told the official news agency Tanjug.

Mitrovic did not give precise details of the currency reform. The last redenomination of the currency occurred in 1965, when 100 old dinars were replaced by

one new dinar.

The dinar has collapsed in value this year. It was quoted Wednesday at more than 28,900 to the dollar, compared with about 22,500 just one month ago and less than 3,000 a year ago.

The national bank printed a new 500,000-dinar bill last month, but it is already worth less than \$17. The bank is now preparing a one-million-dinar note.

Prime Minister Ante Markovic has come under repeated attack from parliament and the six republics for failing to curb inflation since he took office in March. Inflation hit 788.6 per cent in July, compared with 188.9 per cent in July 1988.

Mitrovic said: "The government's anti-inflation moves will be exceptionally tough and economically rigorous and will, accordingly, require a high de-

gree of financial discipline and agreement from society to their implementation."

He said inflation could be halted by the end of this year and reduced next year if the measures were successful.

The inflation has turned shopping into a nightmare, as both customer and assistant struggle with fistfuls of banknotes all of

which have lost value since the previous day. Accountants deal in figures too big for their pocket calculators.

The inflation has also turned into a minor political embarrassment since the portrait of Josip Broz Tito, the national hero who founded the communist state in 1945, is on a 5,000-dinar bill, now worth less than 17 cents.

Amman Financial Market weekly trading

Following is a summary of trading during last week and the previous week:

	Aug. 26-30	Aug. 19-23
Daily average	JD 1,524,987	JD 1,644,299
Total volume	JD 7,624,937	JD 8,221,498
Total shares	3,792,742	4,291,741
No. of contracts	4,043	4,469
Sectoral trading:		
Industrial	JD 2,989,902 (39.2%)	JD 3,820,568 (46.5%)
Financial	JD 3,019,986 (39.6%)	JD 3,384,425 (41.2%)
Service	(16.7%)	(8.7%)
Insurance	(4.5%)	(3.6%)
Share price index	127.9	128.5
No. of companies	58	63
Price movement (rise)	19	30
(decline)	26	22
(stable)	13	11

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.5640/50	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1790/800	Canadian dollar
	1.9710/17	Deutsche marks
	2.2208/15	Dutch guilders
	1.7010/20	Swiss francs
	41.21/24	Belgian francs
	6.6475/525	French francs
	1414/1415	Italian lire
	145.20/30	Japanese yen
	6.6500/50	Swedish crowns
	7.1700/50	Norwegian crowns
	7.6600/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	358.30/358.80	U.S. dollars

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DIRTY HARRY
• IN THE
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(Left): Hitler's troops retreat from the Soviet Union. (Right): The burning hulk of the USS Arizona sinks into Pearl Harbour after the Japanese bombed the U.S. base.

Europeans remember victims of World War II

FRANKFURT (AP) — Europeans Friday paid solemn tribute to the millions of victims of World War II, which started exactly 50 years ago when a German warship opened fire on a tiny Polish garrison.

In Bonn, Chancellor Helmut Kohl reminded parliament and a group of special guests from Poland of the "unspeakable suffering" caused by the Germans.

All week, European newspapers have been filled with retrospectives and commentaries on Sept. 1, 1939 the day that Hitler unleashed the conflagra-

tion that claimed more than 50 million lives and spread to all parts of the globe.

By the time the war was over, the Nazis had shocked the world with the extermination of six million people and the United States had forever changed warfare by dropping nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945.

"We feel sorry for the unspeakable suffering which was caused to human beings and nations in the name of the Germans and by the hand of the Germans," Kohl told a special session of the West German parliament in Bonn.

The chancellor added: "We mourn for the many innocent victims from within our own people."

His audience included a group of young Poles in the visitors gallery. They had been invited as a sign of reconciliation between West Germany and Poland, which suffered more than any

other country from the Nazi atrocities.

Some of the most closely watched events were scheduled in Poland.

President Wojciech Jaruzelski was to speak at Westerplatte on the Baltic Coast, where the first shots were fired.

"We will pay homage to all victims of the war, we will pay homage to its heroes, and we will express the will to live in peace," said Wlodzimierz Lotzinski, a spokesman for Jaruzelski.

American conductor Leonard

Bernstein was to lead an internationally televised memorial concert in Warsaw, and Pope John Paul II was to address fellow Poles in Warsaw by a TV hookup.

But a prayer service in Warsaw, designed to bring together members of the world's dominant religions to pray for peace, appeared likely to be marred by a boycott by Poland's only rabbi.

Rabbi Menachem Joskowitz said he would stay away because the Roman Catholic Church has not removed a convent from the Auschwitz concentration camp,

where mainly Jews were killed.

In Milan, the Corriere Della Sera, Italy's leading newspaper, called Hitler's blitzkrieg "the technology of a new Genghis Khan," the dreaded Mongol conqueror of central Asia.

Corriere Della Sera noted that Hitler had the support of the "German masses," and said European political clout plunged after World War II.

Italy under fascist dictator Benito Mussolini was allied with Nazi Germany during the war.

The communist East German leadership recalled the sufferings

of the Nazi victims: communists, social democrats, liberals, Christians and Jews.

East Germany's Communist Party daily newspaper, Neues Deutschland said their "million-fold annihilation is still hard to describe with words today."

Many of Belgium's 5.7 million Dutch speakers Friday woke to the sound of Hitler declaring war on Poland, as BRT state radio opened its foreign news on early-morning broadcasts with a tape of the original declaration. That was followed by the sounds of Germans cheering their Fuehrer.

Labour unions join defiance campaign

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Black trade unions Friday began industrial protests against South Africa's race-based elections as part of the biggest surge of anti-government action in three years.

The protests coincided with the second day of a nationwide police crackdown on a defiance campaign against next Wednesday's poll for whites, (mixed-race) coloureds and ethnic Indians. The black majority is not allowed to vote.

Hundreds of armed police fanned out across the Witwatersrand industrial heartland around Johannesburg to monitor placard protests by workers at major factories, witnesses said.

There were no early reports of incidents, but the country's largest labour organisation, the South African Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), said police raided its Eastern Cape province offices in Port Elizabeth Friday, the second day on COSATU premises in 24 hours.

At Wetton near Cape Town, police fired shotguns and tear gas to disperse blacks who built barricades of burning tyres.

The mainly-black COSATU, which has almost a million members in the key mining and indus-

trial sectors, is organising the work action with the black National African Council of Trade Unions (NACTU) to protest against the elections and the year-old Labour Relations Amendment Act (LRA), which restricts the right to strike.

NACTU said more than 8,000 of its members demonstrated with placards outside factories near Johannesburg.

At a plant owned by the Dutch conglomerate Unilever near Johannesburg, 1,000 workers waved banners that read "down with the racist LRA."

The industrial action is part of a wider campaign against apartheid that has resulted in the most persistent clashes between demonstrators and police since security forces used emergency powers to crush a two-year-old black uprising in 1986.

The organisers insist the campaign aims to be non-violent, but the government says it is part of a strategy by banned African National Congress (ANC) guerrillas to disrupt the elections.

COSATU General Secretary Jay Naidoo, questioned by security police for eight hours Thursday, was the most prominent target on the first day of a police crackdown.



Students at the University of Western Cape flee after police opened fire on them.

Soviet Moldavia tense as language wrangle goes on

MOSCOW (R) — Tens of thousands of striking workers, who say new language laws in Soviet Moldavia are a slight to the Russian tongue, ignored an attempted compromise Friday and continued their protest.

A strike committee spokesman said the workers were upset about the removal from the constitution of Russian as the state language, and he dismissed a later compromise measure to give Russian and Moldavian equal practical weight.

"The decisions taken yesterday are a purely technical trick to weaken our movement," he told Reuters from the largely Russian and Ukrainian city of Tiraspol.

Dmitri Kondratovich said the strikers were demanding additional assurances they would not be reduced to second-class citizens in the republic, where

many Russians and Ukrainians have lived for generations.

The simmering labour unrest continued after a tumultuous day in the Moldavian parliament and on the streets of the capital Kishinev, where police with clubs moved in to disperse tens of thousands of nationalist demonstrators.

In Estonia, the Communist Party Central Committee gathered in Tallinn to discuss the Kremlin's recent crackdown on nationalism in the Baltic republics.

Party chief Vaino Valjas told the party gathering some personnel changes were necessary but he did not elaborate.

Moldavian legislators Thursday completed a complex package of laws on language which initially altered the republic's constitution to make Moldavian the only offi-

cial state language.

This was changed in a later vote on a formal law "on the practical use of language" giving both Moldavian and Russian equal status in regular usage.

But the drawn-out vote and the order in which the languages appear in the laws have left both the vocal Russian and Ukrainian minority and ethnic Moldavians bitter and confused.

Tens of thousands of Moldavians gathered in central victory square Thursday after word spread about a vote by the republic's Supreme Soviet, or parliament, on the use of the Russian language.

"It was a spontaneous protest by the people of Kishinev and neighbouring cities. There were masses of people," said Yuri Roshka, a spokesman for the Moldavian popular front.

Hungary to open doors for E. German exodus

BUDAPEST (R) — The mass exodus of East Germans seeking a new life in the West is building to a peak as Hungary prepares to speed more emigrants on their way and Austria and West Germany make ready to cope with the new arrivals.

Austrian newspapers predicted the movement of East Germans was about to reach its high watermark with people due back at school or work Monday after the summer break.

Up to 20,000 of 220,000 East Germans now in Hungary are estimated to want to resettle in West Germany. Nearly 2,000 of them are packing three makeshift camps in and near Budapest, and a fourth camp is due to open on Lake Balaton Friday.

West German and Hungarian statements indicate that Hungary is preparing to allow a speedy exodus of all East Germans who want to go West instead of home.

Hungarian Foreign Minister Gyula Horn briefed his East German counterpart Oskar Fischer Thursday "on the planned Hungarian measures aimed to bring a rapid solution," the state news agency MTI reported, giving no details.

West German Social Democratic politician Karsten Voigt told reporters Thursday evening Hungary would very soon find a solution after the end of East German school holidays this weekend.

"The basis of the solution is the principle of human rights which will allow everybody who wants

to, to leave the country," Voigt said, speaking after talks with Hungarian Foreign Ministry officials and Hungarian Communist leader Rezzo Nyers.

In Austria, a government spokesman said visa regulations would temporarily be suspended to help the expected outflow of East Germans wanting to leave their hard-line communist home via reformist Hungary.

Austrian railways said it was ready to transport hundreds of East Germans to refugee camps in West Germany.

And in West Germany, Bavarian Red Cross officials took to the air in police helicopters Thursday looking for sites to house "tent cities" for the East German refugees.

New Panama government may trigger more U.S. sanctions

PANAMA CITY (Agencies) — The appointment of a new government in Panama has staved off a constitutional crisis but could worsen economic problems as Washington considers more sanctions to bring pressure on strongman General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Controller General Francisco Rodriguez was named Thursday to head a provisional government with effect from Friday, the date stipulated by the constitution for transfer of power to a new president who was to have been elected last May.

U.S. officials stated flatly the only government Washington would recognise had to be headed by opposition presidential candidate Guillermo Endara, who they say would have won the May elections had they not been annulled by Noriega's govern-

ment.

Any alternative to Endara would be "illegitimate and illegal" the officials said.

Options said to be under consideration as a result of Rodriguez's appointment include a trade embargo, a halt on wire bank transfers between the United States and Panama and an order barring Panamanian-flagged vessels from U.S. ports.

Washington originally levied a series of economic sanctions against Panama starting in March, 1983, shortly after then-president Eric Delvalle was ousted for trying to fire Noriega as military chief and de facto ruler.

At least \$296 million have been diverted from the Panamanian government as a result, U.S. sources said.

But the sanctions are controversial because they have hurt Panama's economy without achieving their goal of forcing Noriega out of power.

Diplomats here said that of the new sanctions under consideration, the trade embargo and bank transfer ban seemed unlikely choices because of their enormous and long-term negative impact on industry and the economy.

The shipping ban is said to be more popular because it would target the Panamanian government, which earns an estimated \$70 million a year by registering ships under its flag.

But at the same time, the measure could force some shippers to re-register entire fleets and would probably be met with fierce resistance from the shipping industry.

Princess Anne's fairy tale marriage ends in separation

LONDON (R) — Princess Anne and her commoner husband Mark Phillips have formally separated, ending a 16-year marriage which began as a fairy tale romance but cracked under the strain of long separations and rumours of rifts.

"Her royal highness, the princess royal, and Captain Mark Phillips have decided to separate on terms agreed between them. There are no plans for divorce proceedings," Buckingham Palace announced in a statement Thursday.

Palace sources said the parting between the 39-year-old princess, who is Queen Elizabeth's only daughter, and Phillips, the son of a wealthy country squire, was amicable.

They said the queen, holidaying at Balmoral in Scotland, was saddened by the breakup but understood the couple's decision.

However, the statement ruling out divorce did not quell speculation that the couple would formally begin proceedings once they have lived apart for two years as the law requires.

The queen's sister Princess Margaret set a modern royal precedent when she divorced her photographer husband Lord Snowdon 11 years ago.

Princess Anne, seventh in line to the throne, was in Puerto Rico attending a meeting of the International Olympic Committee, of which she is a member, when the



Princess Anne

palace issued its statement.

She looked relaxed and untroubled as she arrived for the meeting, but ignored questions from the media as she entered the conference room at San Juan's Caribe Hilton Hotel.

Phillips, 40, was at the family mansion at Gatcombe park in the west of England preparing to move out to an adjoining farm.

Their presence on separate continents became the pattern in the latter years of a marriage scrutinised by a public first mesmerised by the romantic royal wedding at Westminster Abbey



Mark Phillips

in 1973 between the handsome commoner and the blonde princess.

Gossip columnists called it a fairy tale romance when Anne and Phillips, an officer in the elite Dragoon Guards, became engaged after meeting at an equestrian party in 1968.

Rumours that the marriage was in difficulty began to surface shortly afterwards as the princess spent weeks away from home on overseas visits as president of the Save the Children Fund while Phillips tended to his riding school in Scotland.

They spent their 15th wedding anniversary 17,000 kilometres apart, he in Australia and she at Windsor Castle.

The palace said the children would continue to live with their mother but that Phillips would have regular access to them.

Seasoned royal watchers knew earlier this year that the marriage was in trouble when the palace took the unprecedented step of naming the queen's equerry, commander Timothy Laurence, as the author of personal letters to Anne.

Royal aides said they had already decided to part before the existence of the letters became known in April.

Both Anne and Phillips have been romantically linked with other people but press reports were met with official denials.

Speculation ran rife when the couple stayed in separate rooms during the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. But Phillips said he had separate commitments and was "sick to death" of stories about the marriage being on the rocks.

Phillips, an international-class show jumping rider like his wife, has been linked with various women, most recently a blonde 45-year-old public relations consultant.

Phillips' father, Major Peter Phillips, denied to reporters that his son was involved with any other woman.

COLUMN

Brando fed up with movies

TORONTO (AP) — American actor Marlon Brando, who hasn't appeared on screen in nine years, says the film he just finished is a bomb and he won't make any more. "It's horrible," the Oscar-winning actor said Wednesday of "The Freshman." "It's going to be a flop, but after this, I'm retiring. I'm so fed up." This picture, except for the Canadian crew, was an extremely unpleasant experience. I wish I hadn't finished with a stinker." Brando, 65, who shot the tri-star pictures production in Canada for the last 12 weeks, also told the Toronto Globe and Mail that he's fed up with bowing to the Hollywood publicity system and adores Canada. "I've come from New York, which is a warthog straight from hell. To sing my swan song here is very pleasant," he said in the mumble that turned Broadway on its ear when he made his name on stage in the late 1940s. Brando, who won his first Oscar in 1954 for "On the Waterfront," spoke in an interview conducted, surprisingly, at his request. Brando's most recent film, the thriller "The Formula," bombed in 1980. In the following years, he lived like a recluse on a South Pacific island. In 1973, he refused to accept his second Oscar — for "The Godfather" — in protest against the movie industry's treatment of the American Indian. The same year he gave one of his best performances — as the disillusioned hero in "Last Tango in Paris" — and he was again in demand. He was paid several million dollars for a 10-minute appearance in "Superman" in 1978. Brando said he never really liked acting. "But there was nothing that would pay you that kind of money for that kind of foolishness," he said.

Comedian helps library

NEENAH, Wisconsin (AP) — Comedian Bob Hope poked fun at men and promoted women's rights as he completed four days of performances that raised \$75,000 to \$100,000 to help a library. The 86-year-old comedian said during a final appearance last Saturday: "A husband turned to his wife and said, 'How can you be so incredibly beautiful and so incredibly stupid at the same time.' The wife reported: 'It's God's will. He made me incredibly beautiful so that you may be attracted to me and he made me incredibly stupid so that I could be attracted to you.'"

Unforgettable car

EVANSVILLE, Indiana (AP) — Jim Defew wanted to custom-design a car that people would not forget. So he painted his 1934 Chevrolet pink and purple — down to the engine and hubcaps. With a blue, orange and yellow graphic down the side, interior trimmed in snake skin, and a pair of fuzzy dice and pink-and-purple garters hanging from the rear-view mirror, Defew's car stood out from the 1,700 others displayed last weekend at a hot-rod show at a county fair. "When people see a black or red car, they just walk up and look at it, but every-body just starts smiling when they walk up to (my) car. You can make people happy by the colours you use," he said. "I had to design the colour myself." Defew said, "We got to mixing and matching until we came up with the right combination." Defew, 43, of Kentucky, has been building custom automobiles for 25 years. He spends every other summer weekend travelling to shows across the country. Sometimes he puts his cars up for sale, though he said it would take more than \$50,000 to get him to part with the pink-and-purple Chevrolet.

Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	14	20	Cloudy
ATHENS	20	28	Clear
BAHRAIN	30	36	40 Clear
BANGKOK	25	32	80 Rain
BUENOS AIRES	10	20	68 Clear
CARRO	17	23	63 Clear
CHICAGO	21	28	35 Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	08	18	64 Clear
FRANKFURT	08	17	63 Cloudy
GENEVA	07	15	66 Cloudy
HONG KONG	28	32	90 Clear
ISTANBUL	11	20	70 Clear
LONDON	17	23	75 Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	18	24	76 Cloudy
MADRID	17	23	84 Cloudy
MECCA	23	34	40 Clear
MONTREAL	16	21	77 Cloudy
MOSCOW	12	14	63 Cloudy
NEW DELHI	24	35	91 Clear
NEW YORK	21	24	76 Cloudy
PARIS	16	24	61 Clear
ROME	15	28	79 Clear
SYDNEY	08	18	69 Clear
TOKYO	24	25	81 Clear
VIENNA	10	14	58 Cloudy